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TRAVELS

IN

SPAIN

IN 1797 AND 1798.

BY

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS FISCHER.

WITH AN APPENDIX ON THE

METHOD OF TRAVELLING IN THAT COUNTRY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY A. STRAHAN, PRINTERS-STREET,
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1802.

PREFACE.

In this work the author's object was to exhibit the firſt impreſſions of a traveller, and to give a living picture of the country. He has endeavoured to note thoſe particulars which have eſcaped other writers, and on which the plan of Bourgoanne only permitted him ſlightly to touch, as for inſtance the preſent ſtate of literature in Spain, and the mode of travelling there, which is the ſubject of the appendix. The reader will therefore conſider theſe ſheets as a ſeries of practical notes to that and other works, and in this point of view the author hopes his labours may be aſſociated with thoſe of that diſtinguiſhed writer.

*** To avoid the conſtant interruption of notes the tranſlator has introduced thoſe of the original into the text, and even added a few curſory obſervations of his own, diſtinguiſhed by ſquare brackets [thus] where his own knowledge of that country enabled him to correct ſome trifling error.

It may be uſeful to add that a real vellon is almoſt twopence farthing ſterling; a real of plate or ſilver is about fourpence halfpenny; a peſetta is four reals vellon (about ninepence three-farthings,) but is generally conſidered as equal to a french livre; eight reals of plate make a nominal dollar or dollar of exchange (called a piece of eight) and five peſettas make a hard dollar or dollar of twenty reals vellon; a quarto is a fourth, and an ochavo an eighth part of a real of vellon. *T.*

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TRAVELS IN SPAIN,

IN 1797 AND 1798.

LETTER I.

Departure from Amſterdam for Rotterdam.—The Maas or Meuſe.—The Briel.—Scenery.

On board the Jong Pieter, off the Briel,
April 1797.

It is now noon, and we are waiting for the comptrollers of the cuſtoms, with whom the pilot is to go on ſhore; I therefore take this opportunity of ſending you a letter.

You may remember that at Amſterdam I was ſeeking for a veſſel bound for Spain; but this unfortunate war has thrown every thing into confuſion. At length I found by the public prints, that a ſhip was on the point of ſailing from Rotterdam for Bordeaux, and inſtantly determined to take my paſſage thither. Having no time however to loſe, I collected my paſſports, and went in the ſchuyt to Rotterdam, where I bargained with the

captain for twelve ducats for my paſſage and board. I bought ſome proviſions, and laſt night ſlept on board the veſſel alongſide the quay of the Meuſe.

This morning, toward five o'clock, maſt-heads were perceived, a light fog announced a fine day, and there being leſs ſwell ſhowed, that the tide had abated, and was about to turn. We therefore tacked, and were preſently in the middle of the river. By degrees the ſun roſe, the wind began to freſhen from the eaſtward, and, though we only carried two ſmall ſails, the wind and tide together carried us down like a dart. During a conſiderable time we ſtill diſtinguiſhed, through the high green trees of the Boompuys (a pleaſant promenade on the broad quay of the Meuſe), the magnificent palaces with which that quay is lined. At length they diſappeared; as did the immenſe arſenal, and the delicious plantations of the farther banks; and all theſe objects became almoſt imperceptible.

We ſailed in company with ſeveral other veſſels, always coaſting along the immenſe and flat banks of the river. On our left we ſaw nothing but meadows and woods; but, on the right, Delftſhaven reared its enormous dykes above the ſurface of the water; and, ſoon after, Schiedam, which is celebrated for its manufacture of Gin: it reſembled a town in flames, while a thick ſuffocating ſmoke inceſſantly

inceſſantly covers it, and extends along the bank of the river like an immenſe white mountain.

We had our head to the wind, the water was falling by degrees, and the current was increaſing more and more; when a veſſel, coming up the river, luffed and neared us. Our pilot called out to him to put the helm down; but this manœuvre not being performed quick enough, we were within half a ſhip's length of each other, and our bowſprit was come directly upon his prow. The captain and the pilot now both exclaimed at the ſame moment, "We are loſt, we are loſt!" when fortunately the other ſhip tacked about, and we both eſcaped.

As we advanced, the river grew wider and wider, and we ſaw ſeveral iſlands adorned with the moſt beautiful verdure. We have at length caſt anchor at the mouth of the river, near the fort of the Briel, which ſtands on the ſouth point of the iſland of Vooren. The charming plains have now given place to ſand-banks, where nothing is ſeen but batteries and flag-ſtaves. On the banks here and there are women and children gathering up the fiſh and ſhells which the ſea has left in the traps and in the mud. Before us we behold the blue plains of the ocean covered with an infinite number of fiſhing-boats; we hear the noiſe of the bar like thunder, and the ſhip works with great violence at her anchors.

But the pilot is impatient to have my letter, and I muſt take my leave. Adieu, my dear friend, a thouſand times adieu. How painful is the moment of ſeparation! Theſe are perhaps the laſt lines I ſhall ever write you; never more perhaps will you hear of me. But no; away with theſe melancholy thoughts! I hope this Voyage will be as auſpicious as the two former. I truſt in Heaven and my good fortune. Once more adieu, my deareſt friend.

LETTER II.

The North Sea. — Sea-Sickneſs. — Dunkirk. — Arrangements on board. — An Engliſh Cutter. — Dover Lighthouſe. — The Britiſh Channel. — Scenery.

At Sea.

AT length we got out to ſea the day before yeſterday, with a pretty ſtrong wind from the north-eaſtward. Our veſſel cut the foaming waves with rapidity; and a multitude of fiſhing-boats, returning home, ſaluted us from afar. We could ſtill diſtinguiſh the Downs; but by degrees only ſaw a greyiſh fog, which ſoon became confounded with the ſurface of the water.

At duſk, I began to feel ſea-ſick. The waves of the ocean are longer and ſtronger than thoſe of the Baltic, and give the veſſel a more violent ſhock, which is the cauſe of that diſorder. I was however very little incommoded by it, having, by way of precaution, taken a few doſes of bark in ſome cherry-brandy.

Next morning we were a-breaſt of Dunkirk; to which we were ſo near, that, with a common pocket-glaſs, I diſtinguiſhed the ſhips of war in the road, and the three ſteeples ſo well known by ſeamen. The ſun ſeemed to riſe directly over the

town, gilding the ſurface of the waves; but the air was cold, and great part of the heavens overcaſt.

The firſt day of a ſea voyage is almoſt entirely employed in getting to rights: there are ſo many things to arrange, that nothing is thought of but examining every thing, and fixing the place it ſhould occupy. My *coje*, or cabin, contains, at the foot, a ſmall cupboard for my proviſions; and my books and papers on a ſhelf for that purpoſe above my head. I am not indeed very comfortably lodged, but it does very well.

The captain had alſo a multitude of affairs to attend to: he had to arrange his charts, his quadrants, and his glaſſes, examine the ſails and cordage, diſtribute his proviſions, &c. In ſhort, the whole morning and part of the afternoon paſſed in theſe preparations; till at length the boatſwain ſuddenly called out, that there were four ſail to leeward: upon this, we all went upon deck, and perceived, by our glaſſes, three Engliſh frigates and a cutter.

I believe I have told you we ſailed under pruſſian colours and papers; as ſoon therefore as we came in ſight of the engliſh ſhips, we hoiſted our pruſſian flag; upon which they made a ſignal for us to come alongſide the cutter, who began her inquiries with her ſpeaking-trumpet: "Where are you from?" "From Rotterdam." "Where are you

you bound?" "For Bordeaux." "Of what country are you?" "Pruſſians." "Paſs, and be damn'd!" We had already begun to fear they would force us to viſit Dover againſt our will, and were aſtoniſhed at our good fortune in eſcaping.

We now ſaw nothing around us but veſſels of all ſorts and ſizes, and ſailing in all directions, which afforded a moſt animated and intereſting ſight, filling the mind with ſatisfaction and with hope. At length the ſun was hid by gigantic maſſes of cloud, night drew her veil over the ocean, and we ſaw Dover light-houſe ſhining like a comet to the northward.

This morning we entered the Britiſh Channel; but the wind being contrary, we were obliged to ſtand off and on. The ſun has diſperſed the fog, and we ſee before us the Engliſh and French coaſts, all full of light, reflecting the morning ſun; and every motion of the ſhip ſhows us, on one ſide, the white cliffs of Kent, and the citadel of Dover; on the other, the blue rocks of Picardy, and the batteries of Calais. The air is extremely pleaſant, the wind ſouth-weſt; the ſea, calm and ſmooth, breaks peacefully along the ſhore, and ſails ſhine on every ſide. It affords me an excellent omen, to perceive that Heaven guides us ſo happily along this dangerous channel; for the Goodwin Sands, be-

tween North and South Foreland, are a terror to all ſeamen. The currents carry us along with violence, and the wind is ſo calm that all our ſails flap upon the maſts. Adieu; but though I take my leave of you, my thoughts conſtantly accompany you.

LETTER III.

An Engliſh Privateer. — Pictureſque Deſcription of the Day, as it paſſes at Sea.

At ſea.

LAST night the wind had veered round ſomewhat to the eaſtward, and we had ſailed ſome leagues, when the captain waked me ſuddenly about ſix in the morning, telling me to get up quick, for a privateer was coming on board; and ſoon after an Engliſhman entered the cabin.

He looked over our paſſports, muſter-roll, charter-party, and log-book. "You curſed Dutchmen," ſaid he "always ſail with Pruſſian paſſports; come, give me ſome bottles of gin." The captain gave him ſome with a very humble air. "Well, and a dozen pipes." Theſe were alſo given him. "And a Dutch cheeſe." After which he ſeemed to be going. "And who is that gentleman?" ſaid he, pointing at me, "A ſubject of the king of Pruſſia." "Well, well, come give me a glaſs of wine." He drank two large glaſſes, and, at length, left us graciouſly, as did his companions.

By his dreſs and manner he appeared to be only a boatſwain, and the veſſel we ſo much dreaded no more than a lugger.

At length our captain, who, notwithſtanding his pruſſian paſſports, was ſomewhat diſtruſtful of thoſe deviliſh Engliſhmen as he called them, ſeemed to be in better ſpirits; and the wind in the meanwhile having freſhened, we were all extremely happy.

But unfortunately toward noon we were again becalmed. The ſea was as ſmooth as a lake in Switzerland, but the ſhip rolled as uſual; yet I have contrived to write you a deſcription of all that paſſes around me. Day begins to break, the dark clouds that covered the ocean become a light miſt, the ſtars fade away, the tops of maſts reappear, the ſea reſumes a deep azure, and a ſlight roſeate hue begins to ſhine in the Eaſt. The liquid plain grows brighter and more extenſive every moment, and we already ſee, in the offing, ſails of ſhips at the extremity of the horizon, and ſtreaks of purple float amid the azure of the heavens. In ſhort a glorious light fires the ſea and ſky, and the ſun riſes in all its majeſty.

By degrees the light encreaſes, and I begin to obſerve the veſſels in the diſtance, to examine whether any of our old acquaintance have diſappeared, and others come in ſight, whether they are Danes, Swedes, Engliſh, or of other countries, what courſe they ſteer, whether they are coming toward us or going from us, whether they ſail well or ill, whether they are in ballaſt or in freight, or whether

whether there are any men of war or privateers in ſight, all queſtions infinitely intereſting at ſea, where, with a teleſcope to look through, you may find employment for whole hours without intermiſſion.

The cabin is ſet in order, breakfaſt prepared and eaten, and preparation made for cooking the dinner; one ſtudies the charts, reads, writes, or draws; meanwhile the ſun advances toward its meridian, the captain takes his obſervations, the cook finiſhes his work, and we ſit down to table, after which an hour's ſleep is very agreeable, were it only to ſhorten the afternoon. We then walk the quarter deck, again take a review of the veſſels in ſight, contemplate the coaſts, perform a little muſic, or perhaps play at cards.

Meanwhile the diſk of the ſun increaſes, and his rays lengthen. Surrounded by purple clouds he deſcends in all the pomp of evening, while aërial mountains are heaped together around him; but he pierces them with his brilliant fires, and gilds the ſails, till at length he plunges, by degrees, into the ocean, after which a ſoft and crimſon light envelopes the waters and the heavens.

We ſet down to ſupper, then attend prayers, and thus the day concludes. Twilight now extends its empire over the ocean, the diſtant ſails ſeem to loſe themſelves in its obſcurity, the maſts diſappear,

diſappear, and the ſtars one by one pierce through the clouds. Thus night ſpreads around, and the ſea appears an obſcure abyſs; yet in the diſtance we ſtill perceive the lights of veſſels here and there, or light-houſes along the ſhore. Our lanterns are now lighted, and, except the two ſailors on watch, every one haſtens to bed.

LETTER IV.

Scenery.—A Smuggler.—The Shingles.—The Pleaſure of a favourable Voyage.—An Engliſh Frigate.—Engliſhmen on board.

At ſea.

OUR hopes have been diſappointed. The wind has again ſhifted to the weſtward, and the whole of the day before yeſterday we were ſtanding off and on; another ſhip bound for Morlaix kept us company for ſome time; we talked with the paſſengers, and exchanged with her a roll of Knaaſter tobacco againſt ſome cheeſe and butter, after which the ſailors caught a net-full of fiſh, which our cook has kept for ſupper. Meanwhile the coaſt of Kent diſplayed itſelf before us, and exhibited its beautiful hills and green meadows, its trees in bloom and its white houſes, while the coaſt of Picardy, from which we ſheered off, through policy, as if we were ſailing for an Engliſh port, preſented on the contrary, a mere chain of brown naked rocks.

The ſun had now ſet, and the twilight had already embrowned the ſea, when we diſcovered a ſloop making directly toward us. Not being able to diſtinguiſh as yet, what her company conſiſted of, our captain was ſomewhat alarmed, and took her

her for a privateer; but ſoon ſhe came nearer, and we ſaw two men waving their handkerchieves in the air as a ſign of amity. We ſteered toward them, and ſoon diſcovered they were ſmugglers, for they only aſked us if we had any gin. Our converſation indeed was rather laconic, "Whence are you?" "From Rotterdam." "Have you any thing to drink?" "A few barrels of gin." "Good guineas if you will give us ſome." This offer our captain poſitively refuſed, but exchanged two bottles of it for three of rum, and the boat was preſently out of ſight.

Toward midnight the mate came gaily into our cabin, and calling the captain to his watch, "The wind," ſaid he, "has been north-eaſt ever ſince eleven o'clock, and we are near the Shingles." And in fact we had made ſo much way, that the great light-houſe on the point of Kent, with its brilliant light, was perfectly viſible.

This morning the wind has again freſhened and we are making much way. The greater part of the ſhips that kept us company, and which were in ballaſt, have outſailed us, ſaluting their countryman with acclamations of joy. Indeed, my dear friend, you can ſcarcely conceive, how much pleaſure we feel in thus gliding along with a moderate and favouring wind. The refreſhing ſea air, the ſwelling ſails, the eaſy undulation of the ſhip, the murmurs of the foaming waves, the brilliant reflection

flection of light from the surface of the sea, the azure vault of heaven, all fill me with sensations of pleasure, of energy, of happiness, and of health, which I scarcely know how to describe.

In this manner came on the afternoon, when on a sudden we descried to leeward a frigate, which by her manner of sailing we judged to be English. Our captain, wishing to escape her, endeavoured this time to take advantage of the wind, and set two more sails, but, in spite of all our exertions, the frigate manœuvred better than us, and in less than two hours we were within gunshot, when she made a signal to drop astern, which, however, on account of the violence of the wind, we could not immediately comply with. They fired therefore a second gun with ball, and our old captain was half dead with fright. Upon this the mate, as a sign of submission, hauled up the foresail, while part of the frigate's company got into her long-boat, and we having now wore the ship, saw sixteen men rowing toward us.

At first the captain gave up all for lost. He concealed a small purse of money in his woollen wig, put a tin case containing his *papers of resource* as he called them, into his large breeches, drank three large glasses of gin, one immediately after another, and with an air of melancholy and despair, and in a cold sweat, waited the arrival of the enemy.

Their

Their leader was a little well dreſſed man, who came on board with ſix of his people. According to cuſtom he peruſed all our papers, repeating aloud, as he read over our manifeſt, *ten barrels of beer*, and aſked us with a ſarcaſtic air, "What, have the French no more wine?" At length, after reading our paſſports three times, he ſaid in a friendly voice, "Very well, you may purſue your voyage." On hearing theſe words our captain, who had till then been rooted to the ground, and trembled like an aſpin leaf, recovered his ſpeech: "Would you like," ſaid he with a ſmile, "to take any thing, ſome biſcuit and cheeſe, or a glaſs of double diſtilled gin?" The Engliſhman however refuſed, and quitted our ſhip, to the great diſappointment of his men, who had been reckoning upon a good ſhare of prize-money, "Now," ſaid our captain with an air of triumph, "I hope thoſe rogues will not trouble us any more, I have plenty to ſtop their mouths with."

At night about nine o'clock we deſcried the Caſkets, which are three lights on a dangerous reef of rocks near the iſle of Aurigny. Their ſtrong and lively flames, which ſeem alternately detached and mingled together, tranſport me, as it were, by a ſpecies of enchantment, to that happy and peaceful fireſide, where I have ſo often enjoyed the ſociety of my friend.

LETTER V.

The Commencement of a Storm.—Its Progreſs.—Diſtreſs.—Corpoſant.—The Iſle of Oléron.

At ſea.

AT length I can again ſet pen to paper; but we have paſſed ſome dreadful days. Toward noon the north wind, which had been ſo favourable to us, ceaſed, and we remained in a diſtreſſing calm till night. At length, a ſoutheaſt wind ſpringing up, we ſtood off and on till midnight, when the wind was quite contrary, having come round to the weſtward. The ſun in awful majeſty, and the dark black clouds that accompanied him, were the preſage of a ſtorm.

Toward the afternoon the wind was ſo violent that we could only carry the mainſail and foreſail. The heavens were quite overcaſt, it rained for a time, and the ſtorm was already ſeen at a diſtance. We ſtood off and on as long as we could, but the wind and the ſea drove us conſiderably aſtern. Toward night we were obliged to haul up the foreſail, and to reef the mainſail. In this manner the night paſſed; the wind had ſomewhat fallen, but it freſhened again in the morning, and there was reaſon to apprehend the

ſtorm would continue; the ſwell grew heavier every moment, and the ſeas we ſhipped ſtruck ſo high as to wet our ſails, which we were now obliged to hand, ſo that the captain determined to put into St. Malo, or any other port that was nearer, if we ſhould be happy enough to make one; but unfortunately we ſcarcely knew where we were.

The following night and day our ſituation was ſtill worſe. I paſſed the day in bed, and was obliged to light a lantern, for the cabin was quite dark. The captain came and ſaid to me, "If heaven does not ſoon ſend us ſome help, we muſt cut away our maſts: this ſtorm ſeems to me equal to that in 1776." He was quite dejected, and even the mate, though otherwiſe communicative, did not ſay a word. The ſea daſhed againſt the ſhip's ſides with a dreadful craſh, and ſhe ſeemed as if ſhe were going in pieces.

Toward the afternoon however the ſky began to clear, the ſtorm ſomewhat abated, and toward night we were able to let out the reefs. At midnight the captain waked me to tell me with tranſport, that a corpoſant, which prognoſticated the end of the ſtorm, appeared at the maſthead. But no one can feel the importance of this intelligence without having witneſſed a ſimilar ſcene.

At noon the wind fell conſiderably, and the air became ſo ſerene, that the captain himſelf went to

to the maſthead to look out. He perceived to the weſtward a flat country, but could not determine preciſely where we were. The ſea was ſtill extremely heavy, but we did not roll ſo violently as two days before. We had now, for the firſt time ſince the ſtorm, a regular dinner cooked, and congratulated each other on our good fortune.

At two o'clock the ſun at length ſhone through the clouds, and we clearly diſtinguiſhed the land. We determined to ſail before the wind, which was weſterly, and our captain ſoon diſcovered the land to be the iſle of Oléron. I clearly perceived the rocks and the batteries. The guard of the light-houſe hoiſted their flag, and we did the like. At this moment we are ſtanding off and on along the coaſt.

The wind abates every hour, the ſun ſets peacefully, the ſerenity of a cloudleſs evening promiſes us a calm night and a fine day, and I feel as happy and contented as if I had juſt returned from paying you a viſit.

LETTER VI.

A Wreck.—Fogs and Signals.—Rock and Lighthouſe of Corduan.—A Pilot-boat.—Mouth of the Garonne.—Guard-boats.—Scenery.

On board.

THE wind had now quite fallen, the ſea was growing calm, but the day was dark and the weather variable. We ſaw the wreck of a boat floating on the water, and then a maſt and ſome cordage. Soon after we diſtinguiſhed the other veſſels, which approached us in greater numbers than before. A Dutchman aſked us, with his ſpeaking trumpet, if we had ſeen this boat. In all appearance ſhe belonged to ſome veſſel that had been wrecked on the ſand banks off the coaſt of France. This idea gives us much pain. In the afternoon the wind ſhifted entirely in our favour, to the northward, but the fog became ſo thick, that we could not ſee more than the ſhip's length before us. From time to time therefore we ſtruck the anchor with a hammer, or blew a horn, as ſignals to any ſhips that might otherwiſe have neared us, to prevent our running foul of each other, or running down any ſhips that might croſs our track, as we had the advantage of being to windward.

This

This ſingular muſic continued throughout the night, and deprived us of our ſleep. Toward midnight the mate called out to us below, "*The tower of Corduan*", that is to ſay, the light-houſe at the mouth of the Garonne. The fog had diſperſed, and we perceived it at a diſtance, like a ball of fire. But unfortunately toward night the wind changed again, and we were obliged to drop aſtern, not daring to approach ſo dangerous a coaſt without a pilot. Thus we ſtood off and on very tediouſly during twenty hours.

At length we this morning deſcried a boat making toward us, which, by its red ſail and number, we judged to be a pilot-boat. Nor were we miſtaken; and an hour after we took a pilot on board. He told us, that, hearing of us by ſome fiſhermen, he had ſet ſail yeſterday, and that he had caſt anchor, during the night, near the ſhore. We were extremely rejoiced at his arrival, and, the wind being admirably favourable, we in a ſhort time ſaw on our right the rock of Corduan with its lofty lighthouſe. The waves broke majeſtically againſt that formidable maſs of rock which is formed by the reefs that ſkirt the ſhore, but which by the aid of our pilot we eſcaped. This man informed me, that the tower is one hundred and ſixty feet high, the great lantern fifteen, and from two to three hundred and fifty pounds of pitcoal are conſumed there every night. The watch are

generally relieved every fortnight; but they are obliged to take a month's proviſions, becauſe boats can only approach theſe rocks when the ſea is perfectly calm.

We had no ſooner paſſed the lighthouſe than we perceived a difference in the water, and beheld the charming banks of the Gironde. A multitude of ſhips of every ſize, that we perceived at a diſtance, paſſed us in an inſtant; and on our left the Royan, which was covered with verdure, immediately attracted our attention.

We now approached the guardſhip, and it was neceſſary to ſlacken ſail; when, after a few minutes, two cuſtomhouſe officers, a military officer, and two ſoldiers, came on board. They noted down the name of the captain and of the ſhip; the deſcription of my perſon in my paſſport was carefully compared with my features, and they made me ſeveral times repeat my ſignature. At length, all things being found regular, their countenances, which at firſt appeared ſevere, began to aſſume a milder aſpect, the officer informed us of the ſignature of the preliminaries of peace at Leoben, the news of which had arrived a few days before, and, having mutually congratulated each other, we parted.

The Gironde, the waters of which are yellowiſh and rapid, is above three leagues wide at its mouth, and its ſhores, which are well cultivated, afford ſo

enchanting

enchanting a proſpect, that we inſtantly forgot all our fatigues and dangers. On all ſides we beheld green fields, villages, vineyards, meadows, country-houſes, and woods, with the richeſt and moſt luxurious vegetation. In a word, a moſt charming ſcene approached us on both banks, ſo that I beheld as it were a new world, which ſeemed to be juſt diſcovered: the trees in bloom, the ſmiling farms, the little hills covered with ſhrubs, the plains adorned with flocks, the vineyards of a darker colour than the other verdure, the chateaux, and the houſes that we perceived at the end of the avenues, all gave to nature a new and intereſting appearance.

It is now ſeven o'clock, and the ſun is on the point of ſetting; the ſhadow of theſe enchanting banks extends over the peaceful waters of the river, the harmonious tints of evening give a ſoftneſs to the landſcape, and the air wafts us a thouſand delicious perfumes. Some boats have ſold us proviſions, eſpecially wine; but we ſhall be obliged to caſt anchor near Blaye on account of the tide.

LETTER VII.

Blaye.—Médoc.—Bec d'Ambes.—The Garonne.—Scenery.—Le Paſſage.—Diſputes.—The Port of Bordeaux.

On board.

At Blaye, a fête was celebrating in honour of peace, in conſequence of which that little town was illuminated, and throughout the night re-echoed with muſic and ſinging. Blaye carries on ſome trade in wine, and is ſituated oppoſite to the fort of Médoc. The Gironde is there nineteen thouſand one hundred toiſes broad. On a ſmall iſland, ſeven hundred toiſes from Blaye, ſtands a fort, conſiſting of a ſmall flat tower, known by the name of Pâté, whoſe batteries croſs thoſe of Médoc. Soon after the river grows narrower, but its banks are thereby rendered more romantic. To the left ariſe rocks, whoſe ſummits are crowned with verdure, and their ſides ſtudded with chateaux, farms, cottages, vineyards, and meadows. The right bank, which is the loweſt, is a fine plain covered with charming houſes and plantations of all kinds. After this we paſſed a point of land called the Bec d'Ambes, near which is the confluence of the Dordogne and Garonne, which, when united, take the name of Gironde. As far as the eye can purſue

ſue the narrow banks of the Dordogne and its tumultuous courſe, it views a rich and well-cultivated country embelliſhed with an infinite variety of objects. The Garonne, as it aſcends, grows very ſenſibly narrower, but thereby only produces a more pleaſing illuſion: on looking behind, you would imagine the two banks united with the horizon, and ſhut up the paſſage of the river by a circuit of vineyards, of plantations, and of verdure. In front appears a vaſt amphitheatre, which combines every thing in nature that is attractive or magnificent.

The tide now again ſtopped our progreſs, and we were obliged a ſecond time to caſt anchor, though we were but an hour and a half's ſail from Bordeaux. Our pilot having determined to leave us, and our captain being deſirous of paying his reſpects to the conſul of his nation at Bordeaux, I reſolved to accompany them, and to ſleep that very night on ſhore. We landed on the ſide of the river next Le Paſſage, a place which employs a great number of boats; for Bordeaux being on the left bank of the Garonne, all perſons and goods, either coming down or going up the country, muſt paſs there. Here I was inſtantly aſſailed by a crowd of wharfingers and boatmen, who contended for the care of my baggage; and apparently ſuppoſing me extremely impatient, and ſtill more generous, demanded no leſs than eighteen francs.

I there-

I therefore preferred remaining that night on board and waiting till the next day, when we ſhould be alongſide the town; and having paſſed ſo many nights on board, it was no mortification to me to ſtay there one more. However I landed, leaving my trunk in the care of a ſailor, to whom I gave the price of a meaſure of wine, and went to take a walk among the avenues of trees that run along the bank.

Meanwhile ſome of theſe people, having changed their mind, offered to carry my trunk for the ſix franks I had offered them. They therefore attempted to bring it out of the boat; but they could not perſuade the ſailor to give it up, his concern for my intereſt being now reinforced by ſome good draughts of wine; he therefore put himſelf in a poſture of defence to protect my property, and uſed his oars to make himſelf the better underſtood. The aſſailants were even with him, and returned his blows; ſo that a ſcuffle aroſe, for the conſequences of which I was ſomewhat uneaſy. Fortunately a municipal officer came up, who ſeparated the combatants, though not without difficulty. I thanked him for his interference, and returned on board.

This morning we have received on board a new pilot. Unfortunately the wind has become contrary, and we have been forced to ſtand off and on; but I have been well compenſated by the beauty

beauty of the banks that preſented themſelves to my view. At this moment I perceive a foreſt of maſts and above two hundred veſſels aſſembled together; in the centre is the town, which forms a ſemicircle. A multitude of ſhips of all kinds precede us, and purſue the current of the river. It is about two o'clock, and we are at length arrived. The cuſtom-houſe officers, who came yeſterday on board, have already examined my trunk, and as ſoon as the captain is ſatisfied, we ſhall go on ſhore.

LETTER VIII.

The Landing, and the Quay.—Chateau-trompette.—Entrance into the City.—Situation of Bordeaux—Its Architecture.—Promenade called Allées de Tourni.—A ſingular Poſting-bill.—The Theatre.—Upſtart Fortunes.

Bordeaux, May 1707.

ACCUSTOMED to the beautiful quays of Holland, I was not a little aſtoniſhed to find the landing here low and muddy, the glacis, which is of wood, only beginning in the neighbourhood of Chateau-trompette. A narrow road runs beſide a row of houſes moſtly very handſome; but it is ſo incumbered with mules, carriages, and foot paſſengers, that it is extremely difficult to advance. On the left the view of the river is ſuperb: beyond the ſhipping the eye is feaſted with a ſmiling and fertile country full of the moſt beautiful variety. Two young girls offered to be my guides, and, full of play the whole of our road, carried my heavy trunk by turns on their head without interrupting their drollery for a moment.

To ſhorten my walk, we paſſed by Chateau-trompette, which is the ancient fort of Bordeaux, but which is ſhortly to be pulled down in order to make way for an eſplanade. Here I ſaw a number of portugueſe priſoners, who were juſt then permitted

mitted to take the air; they had compoſed the crews of ſeveral captured veſſels; but their lot is here tolerably mild, and it is poſſible they prefer their preſent condition to living at home even at liberty. We entered the fort, and from the appearance of the filthy glacis we had firſt paſſed, were very agreeably ſurpriſed by the Allées de Tourni, and the ſuperb theatre fronting the great ſquare, the farther end of which is adorned with very fine edifices. Here the eye purſues the beautiful ſtreet of Chateau-rouge as far as the charming banks of the river, which is covered with ſhips, and the whole forms a moſt delightful and magnificent proſpect.

Bordeaux forms nearly a triangle; but on the ſide next the river it reſembles a creſcent, the eaſtern part of which comprehends the town, and the ſouthern the ſuburb. This part, which is known by the name of Chartrons, is celebrated for the beauty of its edifices, its romantic views, and the multitude of rich merchants that live there. The houſes in the town itſelf are moſtly of white free-ſtone, and have a certain air of riches and magnificence; but the ſtreets are narrow, paved without art or ſymmetry, and ſhew the antiquity of the place.

The *Allées de Tourni*, which commence at the theatre, are the principal promenade out of the town. It has lately been embelliſhed with a new coffee-

coffee-houſe at the end, where ſome droll pictures bring good cuſtom; moſt of the ſubjects ſeem to be taken from Arioſto, and they are conſidered as very well executed: a cabinet of wax figures, among which are ſeveral perſonages of the day, and an exhibition of ombres chinoiſes, rope-dancers, &c. afford a feeble imitation of the boulevards of Paris. The trees were everywhere covered with poſting-bills: in France, one ſoon becomes accuſtomed to the declamatory ſtyle of theſe papers: the following however ſtruck me too forcibly not to copy it: it contained the ſurpriſing promiſes of an *officer of health*, who engaged to cure all poſſible diſorders in a certain fixed time, appointing preciſely the month, week, day, hour, and minute; for inſtance, he could cure the tooth-ache in three minutes, the cholic in three quarters of an hour, a fever in three days, a ſciatica in three weeks, and a conſumption in three months. You will allow this hand-bill profeſſed a ſpecies of talent by no means common.

At the theatre, which is magnificent, and of which you will find a deſcription in every book of travels, I ſaw Gluck's Orpheus and Eurydice, with a ballet performed in a ſuperior ſtyle. On beholding this crowd of young people elegantly dreſſed, and women loaded with diamonds, you would ſcarcely have thought it poſſible France could have ſuffered ſo ſeverely during the laſt eight years.

years. I made the like obſervation at the promenades; and eſpecially at a concert given by a Jew virtuoſo, where every thing I beheld diſplayed ſuch exceſſive luxury, ſuch a boundleſs paſſion for pleaſure, and ſuch a ſtriking egotiſm, that the ſpectator could not avoid making the moſt painful reflections on the ſlow progreſs of philoſophy in an age ſo proud of its enlightened reaſon. Among their wives and their miſtreſſes a crowd of upſtarts were pointed out to me, many of whom, before the revolution, were among the loweſt claſſes. It may be ſaid, that, in all revolutions, nothing but forms change, while in fact things ever remain the ſame.

LETTER IX.

Gaſcons; their Character and Language.—Bordeaux Wine; its Claſſes and Prices.—Preſent Stagnation of Trade.—Speculations in Privateers.—The Exchange.—Character of the Merchants and Inhabitants in general.

Bordeaux, May 1797.

NOTWITHSTANDING the exaggeration that has prevailed relative to the Gaſcons, there is ſome foundation for what has been ſaid of them; for they always ſpeak in hyperboles, and with the like figure ever appreciate their own merit: they are continually talking of themſelves, and muſt always be as it were upon the ſtage to feel at their eaſe: they know every thing, have ſeen every thing, and have almoſt been preſent at the creation of the world: they tell lies without knowing it, brag without intending it, are continually contradicting you without ill-will, and offend without deſign: their character chiefly conſiſts in a ridiculous vanity, and an unaffected proneneſs to romancing.

Every one is acquainted with the Gaſcon pronunciation: its principal defects conſiſt of too ſtrong an aſpiration of the *j*, the change of *b* into *v*, and too ſtrong an accent on the *e* ouvert: but many people are ignorant, that the Germans of Upper

Upper Saxony, and the Spaniards, are not exempt from the ſame defects; and that the pretended Gaſconiſms are alſo in part Germaniſms, or Hiſpaniſms.

The chief branch of the commerce of Bordeaux conſiſts of wine, for where can a man go but he meets with claret? I doubt not therefore you will be glad to learn ſomething on that ſubject.

The wines properly of Bordeaux are diſtinguiſhed from thoſe of which that town is only an emporium, and which are there ſhipped for foreign parts. Thoſe grown at Bordeaux are diſtinguiſhed into *vins de graves*, and *vins de la palud*, according to the ſoil that produces them; the former being ſandy, the latter marſhy. The wines ſent to Bordeaux are either country wines (*vins du pays*) from four leagues adove Bordeaux, or from upper *Guyenne*; or thoſe from *Catalonia* in Spain, which are ſent from thence to Cette in Languedoc, and thence by the grand canal and other navigable rivers to Bordeaux.

Among the wines properly of Bordeaux itſelf thoſe of *Médoc* are highly eſteemed, and the beſt quality is that of La Fite. Among the French wines ſent to Bordeaux, the moſt eſteemed are the white wines of *Langan*, and the red of *Caſtres*; and among thoſe of Spain the wines of Nataro.

As to colour and price, the red *vins de graves* are from fifty to a hundred ecus per caſk; the

white wines of *Langan*, *Prignas*, *Barſac*, and *Sauternes*, are from one hundred and ninety-five to two hundred and ten francs; the white and red wines of *Pedenſac*, from thirty-four to thirty-eight; and the white and red of *Caſtres*, from forty to fifty francs.

In no part have men refined to ſo high a degree of perfection as at Bordeaux on the art of cultivating the vine; in no part perhaps could they create ſo great a variety of ſorts with equal economy; and it requires a laborious application of many years to become acquainted with theſe ſecrets, or to know how ſucceſsfully to employ in practice a long ſeries of expenſive experiments. Of all the claret drunk out of France very little is pure and genuine; the greater part being adulterated with various drugs, or mixed with other wines. This laſt ſpecies of adulteration is perhaps the moſt innocent, and is even ſometimes neceſſary to enable the wine to bear a voyage. There is alſo a kind of wine called *vins cuits* boiled previous to their fermentation, which keeps them always mellow. There are alſo vins de paſſe, or raiſin wines made without a preſs by an infuſion of dried raiſins, which is afterwards left to ferment.

The exportation of wines amounts on an average to 100,000 barrels a year. It has conſiderably diminiſhed ſince the commerce of the north and of the United Provinces has ceaſed. There is alſo much brandy exported, of which the common

ſort

fort is one degree and a half, and the beſt, which is called ſpirit of brandy, as far as thirteen degrees.

The general ſtagnation and deſtruction of the trade of Bordeaux has obliged the merchants to enter into other ſpeculations, eſpecially that of privateers, which is the moſt general. There are at this time no leſs than twenty-one privateers belonging to Bordeaux alone; and ſeveral of the proprietors have already made fortunes by rich portugueſe and engliſh prizes coming from the Brazils and the Eaſt and Weſt Indies. Yeſterday, for inſtance, the *Intrépide* brought in an engliſh brig, the cargo of which is valued at a million and a half French; and ſix large portugueſe ſhips were ſhown me on the river with crews of one hundred and twenty men and twelve guns, which were boarded and taken by ſmall privateers with only eighty men and four guns.

Meanwhile complaints are conſtantly heard on all ſides of the decline of commerce and the abſence of ſpecie. The ſuperb ſugar-houſes, which owing to the good quality of the water here produced excellent ſugar, and which on account of the facility of ſhipping it was ſo much in demand in the north, are now quite dead for want of ſugar to work. The great numbers of manufacturers in glaſs, china, cloth, hardware, chintzes, &c. having no longer a market in the colonies,

are on the point of total ruin. The wine, brandy, and vinegar trades, have ſuffered in conſequence of the war, and the artificers who lived by them are in the moſt extreme indigence. Every one complains; and none but carpenters, ſhip-builders, and rope-makers, now find employment, in conſequence of the frequent fitting out of privateers. I acquired moſt of this intelligence at the exchange: but, when I mention an exchange, do not figure to yourſelf ſuch exchanges as thoſe of Holland: that of Bordeaux is ſmall, filthy, and is a kind of miniature of the palais-royal. In like manner, the ſquare formerly called place-royale in front of the exchange, and ſituated on the river, appears too circumſcribed and too mean for a city like Bordeaux, which contains 100,000 inhabitants.

The rich merchants here are reputed to be much given to luxury and intrigue; they are alſo charged with want of good faith and with extravagance; but I dare not decide on theſe reproaches, or on thoſe of avarice and bad morals; reproaches which it would be unjuſt to render general. Among the exceptions, which I have a pleaſure in making, I would place in the firſt claſs the worthy Berquin, author of ſo many works for children, and who was born at Bordeaux.

LETTER X.

Departure from Bordeaux.—Society on the Road.—Landes, or Heaths.—Stilts.—Inns, partly ſpaniſh.

Bayonne, May 1797.

I AM at length at the foot of the Pyrenees, only four leagues from the frontiers of Spain, where every thing announces the neighbourhood of that intereſting country.

I was deſirous of coming hither by the diligence (which coſts ſeventy francs, and arrives in three days), but I was offered for fifty francs a corner of a returned carriage. On traverſing the ſuburb of St. Jean, the fine houſes and gardens with which it abounds afforded a ſmiling and a charming proſpect. For two leagues afterwards the country is perfectly well cultivated, affording the fineſt landſcape the eye can behold. We paſſed before the country-houſe of the ci-devant biſhop of Bordeaux, where the ſtatues in the garden were mutilated, the windows and window-ſhutters broken, and the balconies torn in pieces. The road preſently became ſandy, the beautiful plantations on both ſides changed to barren heaths, and we entered upon the well-known *landes* of Bordeaux.

One of my fellow travellers was a little middle-aged man from Biſcay, who had ſerved, when young, on board a ſhip belonging to the colonies: he had afterwards been ſeveral voyages to Guinea, and a great number to St. Domingo. At length he was employed at the port of Breſt, and was now returning to his family, to paſs the remainder of his life in peaceful retirement. He ſeemed a very worthy man, was full of witty ſallies, enjoyed an unruffled ſerenity of temper, and, notwithſtanding his Gaſconiſm, poſſeſſed a great fund of uſeful and valuable knowledge. With him was his niece, a beautiful creole, thirteen years old, full of wit and accompliſhments; ſhe ſang charmingly, and, by the attractive fire of her black eyes, appeared to have entirely taken leave of infancy.

My other companion was alſo a ſeaman, and a Baſque, or Biſcayan. He was tall, well made, in the prime of life, and was going to Bayonne to take the command of a veſſel that had juſt been fitted out as a privateer. Having recently received his ſhare of a conſiderable prize, he had plenty of money, and every now and then gave us a taſte of his ſtock of Medoc wine, which was excellent.

I have paſſed the laſt five days in this pleaſant and agreeable party, without experiencing a moment's ennui. Every one had ſo many adventures to communicate, and one ſtory led to ſo many others, that the converſation never ceaſed, except

except when Mademoiſelle Jeannette now and then ſang a ſong; and I endeavoured to contribute my ſhare to this intereſting converſation.

I could not give you a better idea of our route, than by comparing it with the country of Lunenburg; with this only difference, that here we found a greater quantity of heath. During the laſt ten leagues we ſaw long rows of oſiers and firs, we only met with a village every three or four leagues, and the cultivation was much ſuperior to what the marſhy ſoil ſeemed to promiſe. Everybody here walks on ſtilts; and in that manner the ſhepherds and peaſants attend their flocks, which we met with every now and then. As they are accuſtomed from an early age to this contrivance, they uſe it as though it were a natural elongation of the leg, and advance with aſtoniſhing rapidity: many of them dance, turn round with eaſe, and even pick up the money thrown them, without quitting their ſtilts. The appearance of theſe gigantic figures, eſpecially in young girls, has a very ſingular and comical effect.

In all the inns we entered, and which were tolerably clean, I obſerved an approximation to the manners and cuſtoms of Spain: we were aſked, for inſtance, whether we choſe to have our dinners dreſſed with oil or butter, and whether we preferred coffee or chocolate: a very common diſh here is giblets ſtewed in their own gravy.

LETTER XI.

The Pyrenees.—Caps uſed in Biſcay.—Suburbs of Bayonne.—Firſt Appearance of that Town.—Its Situation.—Les Allées Marines, or the Promenade along the Quays.—Charming Environs of Bayonne.

Bayonne, May, 1797.

DURING the two laſt days we had already begun to perceive part of the Pyrenees, and could perfectly diſtinguiſh their ſnow-clad ſummits; but three leagues from Bayonne they diſplayed themſelves in all their magnificence.

The cultivation grew better, the road began by degrees to aſcend, and country-houſes and gardens increaſed in number, when, all on a ſudden, we perceived from the brow of a hill the town of Bayonne at the foot of the mountains, whoſe azure maſſes ſeemed to be within a league of us. The crowd of villages and plantations, the view of the town and of the river, which was partly covered with ſhips, and the majeſty of the ſcenery gave us the greateſt pleaſure.

We were accoſted by a beautiful peaſant returning with ſome vegetables from a garden; ſhe wore that bewitching coeffure, which has been adopted firſt at Paris, and ſince in Germany, and which

which ſo advantageouſly adorns our country-women. It conſiſts of a cambric handkerchief, of which two corners are attached behind and hang down, while the two others are tied in a roſe on the forehead. The biſcayan women, who are very well made, are ſo ſkilful in varying the form of their handkerchieves, and their light ſtraw hats adorned with ribands harmonize ſo well with them, that I could almoſt prefer this coeffure to all others.

The road ſoon deſcended, and we preſently entered the ſuburb of Saint Eſprit, which is ſeparated from the town by the river Adour. Every thing has here a Spaniſh air, the houſes are adorned with balconies, on which cloths are ſpread, the ſhops have open windows, and the artificers are ſeen within ſinging as they work. We meet women everywhere riding on aſſes, or with baſkets on their heads, loaded mules, or ſledges drawn by oxen. Even the accents of the Baſque language, to which I am not yet accuſtomed, and the noiſe of the tambourins to which young girls are ſeen dancing, add to the attractive novelty and gaiety of the ſcene.

The bridge having been broken down, we were obliged to paſs the river in the ferry. A crowd of ſpectators had aſſembled on the bank, and ſeemed to vie with our boatmen in the noiſe they made. Not that our carriage had any extraordinary appearance,

pearance, or that the paſſage was dangerous, but, becauſe it was a cuſtom and a kind of natural inſtinct with theſe people to make a great noiſe.

Some travellers have ſpoken of the beauty of Bayonne; but I am ſorry I cannot agree with them. Every thing conſidered, the town appears to me inſignificant and rather filthy, and though it has ſome fine ſtreets, ſeveral tolerably fine edifices, and a great ſquare, all theſe ornaments are defaced by a theatre and a corps de garde in ruins.

Bayonne ſtands a league from the ſea, at the confluence of two rivers, one of which, called the Nève, divides the town in two parts, which communicate by a bridge. In one of theſe diviſions we arrived by the Porte de France, from which we beheld the Nève precipitating itſelf into the Adour. The latter ſeparates the town from the ſuburb, and, after uniting with the Nève, forms an excellent harbour, the ſuperb quay of which is uſed as a promenade.

A double row of tufted elms affords here a cool delightful ſhade. To the right, above the river, is ſeen the country above the town, with the Adour meandering through it, a part of the ſuburb, the high citadel built upon a mountain, in form of a terrace, the dock-yards, and ſome plantations. To the left, between the rows of trees on the glacis, appears the country below the river with its

rich

rich views crowned by the Pyrenees. If the view were not obſtructed by a great ſand-hill forming a vaſt projection, the ocean would be viſible from the point of the quay in all its grandeur and magnificence. The tumultuous animation of the port, the perfumes of the neighbouring meadows, and the pure elaſtic ſea air, render this promenade extremely pleaſant at all hours of the day, but evening adds new charms and encreaſing intereſt to the ſcene.

This quay, which the inhabitants call *les Allées marines*, is not the only promenade. The walks of trees that encompaſs the glacis to the very banks of the Nève, the meadows that carpet theſe charming valleys, in ſhort, the whole country interſperſed with gardens, vineyards, and country-houſes, give a great variety to the proſpect, nor is there any point of view where the eye does not behold the town and its rivers, the ſummits of the Pyrenees, or the ſea.

LETTER XII.

Trade of Bayonne.—Exports and Imports.—Privateering.—A Deſcription of the various Qualities of Chocolate, how made, and the characteriſtics of its goodneſs.

Bayonne, May, 1797.

I AM now able to give you ſome information relative to the commerce of Bayonne. The chief trade ariſes out of its relation with Spain, to the ports of which it ſends principally the following commodities: the woollen cloths of Languedoc, the ſilks of Lyons, Tours, and Avignon, cottons and chintzes of Rouen and St. Malo, hats and ribbons, ſilk ſtockings, gold and ſilver laces, watches, and ſteel-ware. In exchange for theſe are received wool, wine, oil, and Spaniſh American goods, eſpecially dying woods, dollars, and ingots.

To the north of Europe, and particularly to the Hans-Towns, Bayonne exports wines, and among others, the *vin blanc d'Anglet*, and the *vin rouge du Cap Breton*, (the former of which is made to the right, and the latter to the left of the Adour) liquorice, raiſiné, (grape conſerve, or gelly,) chocolate, &c. and, in return, are received various northern merchandizes, of which the principal article is cheeſe: beſides which a very briſk coaſting trade

is carried on with all the ports of France. The ſhips of Rouen, Nantes, Saint Malo, Bordeaux, &c. alſo bring hither the products of their commerce, to be forwarded into Spain, and in exchange they receive the merchandize of that country, for which Bayonne is as it were an emporium.

Since the preſent decline of trade, the merchants of Bayonne have employed a great part of their capitals in fitting out privateers, nine of which are now in ſervice, and prove very ſucceſsful. Laſt month they took a large Engliſh ſhip bound from Liverpool to Oporto, with a cargo of bacallao and manufactured goods. Theſe have been ſmuggled into Bilboa, where ſuch articles are in great demand, and have produced an enormous profit. The Biſcayans are indeed excellent ſeamen; the diſcovery made by them of Newfoundland, and their navigation toward Davis's Streights, are undoubted facts, for moſt of the ports in thoſe countries bear Baſque names.

A conſiderable branch of the trade of Bayonne conſiſts in chocolate, of which a great quantity is ſold not only in France but throughout the north. Having had an opportunity of obtaining ſome information on this ſubject, you will not, perhaps, find the following particulars wholly unintereſting:

The goodneſs of chocolate depends, in the firſt inſtance, on that of the cacao, from which it is made, and

and which is chiefly of the three following kinds, or qualities; that from the Caraccas, that from Guayaquil, and that from the Weſt Indies, particularly St. Domingo, Martinique, Curaçao, &c. Caraccas cacao is extremely dear, even during peace, and, in the moſt favourable years, is never ſold for leſs than three francs a pound. To make chocolate therefore the cacao of the Caraccas and that of Guayaquil are mixed together. Two thirds of the former with one-third of the latter produce the firſt quality; two-thirds of Guayaquil with one-third of Weſt India cacao produce the ſecond; and the Weſt India cacao alone the third.

The goodneſs of chocolate depends, in the ſecond place, on the care beſtowed on roaſting the cacao, on the proper proportions of the cacao, ſugar, and various aromatics employed, and on the attention beſtowed in working it, in order to produce a more perfect mixture of the ingredients.

The characteriſtics of a good and unadulterated chocolate, are, a deep fleſh colour, a firm, fine, and ſhining grain or texture, with little white rays, an aromatic ſmell, a facility of melting in the mouth, with a ſenſation of coolneſs, the producing no gluten in cooling, and the having an oily cream at top.

[In England, if chocolate is perfectly prepared, no oil appears in ſolution, perhaps, becauſe our double

double cylinder is well calculated for exact trituration.]

The general characters of bad and adulterated chocolate are, a black pitchy colour, an insipid taste of syrup, a farinacious unequal coarse grain, a burnt smell while preparing for the table, a glutinous moisture, the melting watery, and a fat mixed sediment.

Chocolate is adulterated in various ways; by an unequal mixture of the various kinds of cacao, as for instance, a fourth of Caraccas, a fourth of Guayaquil, and a half West India, for the first quality, instead of two-thirds of Caraccas, and one-third Guayaquil: but even the most honest makers of chocolate find themselves compelled to adulterate, whenever, the price of good cacao having risen considerably, the public will not give higher prices than usual for chocolate.

The baneful and most blameworthy adulterations are, the expressing the cacao oil, in order to sell the butter of cacao to the apothecaries and surgeons, substituting animal fat, and roasting the cacao to excess, to deprive it of this foreign taste; the mixing it with rice, flour, potatoes, honey, syrup, &c. A pound of Caraccas chocolate costs, even here, near three livres; you may therefore easily imagine of what quality these mixtures must be in Germany; chocolate must also be prepared

pared in a proper manner, in order to retain all its ſtrength, and a good flavour. The rule is, one cup of water to two ounces of chocolate. It is ſuffered to melt gently over the fire, and is poured out as ſoon as it begins to riſe, after which it is heated a few minutes longer, in the cup, on the hot cinders.

[For heat ſuddenly applied both coagulates it and ſeparates the oil.]

LETTER XIII.

Fête in honour of Peace.—The Game called Ballon.—A Bull-Fight.—Character of the Inhabitants of Bayonne.—Arrangements for a Journey in Spain.

Bayonne, May, 1797.

YESTERDAY all Bayonne was in a tumult, celebrating a fête on account of the preliminaries ſigned at Leoben with the Emperor. The proceſſion conſiſted, as uſual, of bands of muſic, young people of both ſexes, the public functionaries, the gardes nationales, &c. It was a very ſingular appearance to behold a triumphal car formed of green lattice-work, covered with pine-branches and red cloth, in which Mars, Apollo, Ceres, and Victory, ſat very ſociably together, and it muſt certainly be ignorance or want of civiſm in me, to conſider theſe ceremonies as ridiculous and mean. The fête concluded with fire-works at night, which proved, indeed, its principal ornament.

Laſt Sunday, for the firſt time, I ſaw the game called ballon, or air-ball, of leather, filled with air by a machine, which is a favourite exerciſe with the Bayonneſe and the Baſques in general. The lightneſs, agility, intereſt, and attention, beſtowed on it, ſtruck me forcibly, and the

numerous crowd of ſpectators ſeemed by their enthuſiaſtic acclamations to excite to the utmoſt the ambition of the players.

But the bull-fight, which had newly been introduced before the Porte d'Eſpagne, was frequented with ſtill greater ardour. As the Spaniards of the neighbouring country often come to Bayonne, either on commercial buſineſs or for an excurſion of pleaſure, ſome enterpriſing perſons, in order to attract them thither ſtill oftener, have engaged a Spaniſh *toreador* or bull-fighter, and eſtabliſhed that ſpecies of diverſion. The novelty of this ſpectacle attracted all Bayonne; but many connoiſſeurs, who were enabled to judge of the performance by compariſon, thought it execrable: for it conſiſted merely of two bulls quite tame, who were cruelly tormented during ſome hours by a few *banderilleros* throwing darts wrapped in paper, or charged with gunpowder, and their dogs.

The Bayonneſe are generally conſidered as the very Gaſcons of the Gaſcons themſelves, and their exaggerations relative to the pre-eminence of their little town are inſufferably ridiculous. They are accuſed alſo of being cunning and artful toward ſtrangers. If a general inference could be drawn from particular examples, I ſhould be at no loſs for inſtances. On enquiring for a conveyance to Bilboa a voiturier was recommended to me, who, for three days journey to that city, did not ſcruple

to aſk me twenty piaſtres, though he would not employ more than one mule, and while I was remonſtrating againſt the unreaſonableneſs of the demand, ſeveral very well-dreſſed perſons came up and voluntarily took part with the voiturier, and ſaid the price was very moderate. Fortunately I was previouſly informed of the contrary. I therefore broke off my negociation and took other meaſures.

Hearing of a biſcayan veſſel that was trading to Bilboa, and which was to ſail about the end of the week, (a coaſter, called here a *chaſſemarée*,) I waited on the captain, a fine young man of a tractable diſpoſition, and was aſked no more than five piaſtres for myſelf and baggage; and though this, as I afterwards learned, was two high, twenty franks being the common price, we immediately agreed, and we ſail to-morrow.

LETTER XIV.

The Port of Bayonne. — Its dangerous Bar. — Occupations. — Fears.

Boucault near Bayonne, at the mouth of the Adour, May, 1797.

I HOPED to have dated this letter from Spain, but thoſe hopes are literally fled away; for the wind has changed to the ſouthward.

The day before yeſterday the captain had me called at four in the morning, but, with all the haſte I could make, I was too late, and was obliged to purſue him in a boat. The river affords a very grand proſpect, for there the eye commands a view of Bayonne with its mountains and environs, which form an amphitheatre, and a ſcene of beauty more eaſy to admire than to deſcribe.

The wind however ſhifted on a ſudden to the ſouthward, and cauſed an inſupportable heat. The whole atmoſphere ſeemed on fire, the water of the river tepid, the ſhade of the ſails which were extended over us afforded but little ſhelter, and, ſeeing but little hopes of a change, I came on ſhore, and took refuge at the inn.

Two days have already elapſed in waiting, and though the wind is a little more eaſterly, the bar gives

gives us little hope. We have gone ſeveral times as far as the pilot's light-houſe, at the point of the dyke, but the roaring of the waves is dreadful, and their ſound like thunder, eſpecially during the night. We muſt however have patience. The captain tells me he has ſometimes ſtaid here twenty days; we ſhall be very lucky if we eſcape with the loſs of a week.

Notwithſtanding the labour that has been beſtowed on the conſtruction of theſe two fine dykes, built for the benefit of the trade of Bayonne, this dangerous bar is almoſt an inſurmountable obſtacle; and they ſay five or ſix veſſels are wrecked there almoſt every year. We ſaw, upon the Downs, the remains of a veſſel that had been wrecked there laſt month.

Near us lie two Dutch ſhips with Ruſſian colours, and three Danes, bound for Amſterdam, Hamburg, and Bremen. All the captains, and by turns the ſailors, come on ſhore daily to ſee the bar and take refreſhments at the inn. The Dutch bring their wives and children. My Biſcayan captain plays every day with his people at nine-pins, and the winnings are ſpent in drink, of which they partake in common.

To remain at a ſea-port waiting for a fair wind is a ſtate of extreme irkſomeneſs. My only reſource is a ſmall wood behind the houſe, where I

go to read my Spaniſh books. Our hoſt is, at once, a pilot and a fiſherman, but he is out all day, which is a great mortification to me, as it deprives me of his intereſting converſation, which I can only enjoy at night.

It is now the fifth day, and the bar does not appear more tranquil. The captain is gone to the town to procure freſh proviſions, and every one looks forward till the day after to-morrow, when the moon will enter her firſt quarter, at which time the ſea begins to grow calm. I may however be obliged to ſtay another fortnight. What a loſs of time! But I throw down my pen; for one ſhould never write in a bad humour.

LETTER XV.

Departure.—View of the Coaſt.—San Sebaſtian.—Contrary Winds.—Guetaria.—Firſt Impreſſions.—A Biſcayan Hoſteſs.—Singular Beds.—Arrieros.—Chriſtian Souls.—A Surgeon's Library.

Guetaria, Biſcay, June, 1797.

THE night before laſt we went, as uſual, to the pilot's light-houſe, when the bar appeared more practicable, and the captain began to form ſome hopes. In ſhort, we got out to ſea the next day at noon. The veſſel was towed by two large boats on the other ſide of the river. We were the laſt that performed this manœuvre, and I had obſerved the five others at my leiſure; but however frightful the ſhocks received by the head and ſtern of the ſhip may appear, they are but little felt by thoſe on board. The other veſſels ſailed to the northward, and we remained alone. A coaſting voyage, however, can ſcarcely be reckoned going to ſea.

As our diſtance increaſed, the blue ſides of the Pyrenees diſplayed themſelves in all their majeſty. In the diſtance a ridge of mountains ſtretched along in confuſed irregular maſſes toward the ſea, and terminated in a ſteep declivity of rocks covered with farms and cultivation. Behind us the ver-

dant coaſt of Gaſcony gradually diſappeared, and, in front, we ſaw the reflected light of diſtant ſails.

We had an eaſt wind, which, though faint, was favourable, and ſoon got ſight of the citadel of San Sebaſtian, ſituated on a promontory. The ſun was ſetting, the ſhades of the rocks were lengthening, and a delightful coolneſs roſe from the ſurface of the ſea. The points of the Pyrenees ſhone with a golden light, and a deeper hue adorned the ſurface of the waves. We caſt anchor under the guns of San Sebaſtian. The night was mild and ſerene, the heavens ſpangled with ſtars, and the ſea in perfect calm.

The morning, however, proved as ſtormy as the night had been tranquil. The air was full of dark clouds, the wind began to blow ſtrong from the ſouth-weſt, the ſea grew heavy, and we found it very difficult to beat up againſt wind and currents. The captain determined however, to keep out at ſea, and we manœuvred as well as we could.

In the afternoon the wind grew ſo boiſterous as to lay the ſhip down, and we ſhipped ſeveral ſeas; we determined therefore to haul our wind cloſe, and make the firſt port we could, which happened to be Guetaria, where we arrived at ſeven in the evening, and a boat being ſent off to us brought us to a ſmall dyke, where we dropped anchor.

This

This village reſounded with tambourines, in the balconies toward the ſea were women in veils, and the boats in which we croſſed the bay were full of young girls ſingularly dreſſed, and whoſe hair floated in long brown treſſes. The appearance of a crowd of monks in large black cloaks and covered with immenſe round hats walking on the dyke, the dreſs of our pilots, their culottes adorned with ribbons and black velvet, their red waiſtcoats, and *redecillas* or hair nets, in a word a total change in every appearance, and innumerable ſenſations, which I cannot deſcribe, apprized me I was in Spain.

The captain propoſed to take me to an inn, to which I conſented. Having landed, we paſſed through an arch-way without gates into a ſmall ſquare, where the people were dancing the fandango, though it was now ſo dark I could ſcarcely ſee, and my guide recommended me to an old woman, whom we found in a ſmoky kitchen, whither I entered with a firm reſolution to accommodate myſelf to whatever I ſhould find.

In the province of Biſcay it is well known that the ancient Cantabrian language is preſerved, and the Caſtillano or Spaniſh, is ſpoken very little or very ill; ſo that it was with the greateſt difficulty that my landlady and myſelf could make ourſelves underſtood. However, I had no ſooner anſwered her firſt enquiry, whether I was a Chriſtian, by which

which is meant a catholic, in the affirmative, than ſhe was ſo pleaſed with me, that ſhe brought me a ſtone-bottle of delicious wine and a large loaf of bread made of flour and maize in equal quantities, but of a very pleaſant taſte. She had nothing elſe to offer, except a dozen fried ſardines or ſprats with which I was obliged to be contented.

When I retired to reſt, I found no other bed than a paillaſſe of maize leaves, laid on vine twigs, and two blankets; and, ſoon after, four muleteers *(arrieros)* came in and occupied the two other beds. One of them ſpoke French tolerably well, was extremely pleaſed to find I was a *chriſtiano*, and I could not refuſe taſting his wine.

Next morning I found, in the kitchen, a woman younger than the former, but ſcarcely at all handſomer. This was the old woman's daughter, and miſtreſs of the houſe. She ſpoke Caſtillano with tolerable purity, and knew ſo well how to aſk me queſtions, that my monoſyllabic anſwers ſufficed to inform her of the object of my journey. "Señor," ſaid ſhe, "la grazia de Dios acompañarà a vm. Eſpaña es el mejor pays del mundo. Las almas chriſtianas ſe alegraràn de ver a un hermano, y le ayudaràn a vm. en todas ſus empreſas." The grace of God, Sir, will accompany you. Spain is the beſt country in the world. The ſouls of Chriſtians will rejoice in ſeeing a brother, and will aid you in all your undertakings.

She

She then led me into the ſala or great room, which was tolerably neat. Meanwhile her huſband returned, and addreſſed me in bad French. Beſides being an inn-keeper, he was the ſurgeon of this ſmall place, and, in the laſt war with France, had learned a little French of the ſoldiers who had been quartered in his houſe. I looked over his books, among which I found tranſlations of Dr. Buchan's Domeſtic Medicine, and of Tiſſot's Avis au Peuple, a Complete Treatiſe on Surgery, a Treatiſe on the Materia Medica, and a Diſſertation on Midwifery. All this convinced me of the progreſs of knowledge in Spain, which I obſerved with pleaſure.

LETTER XVI.

Guetaria. — Its Situation and Appearance. — An Indiano. — A Mountainous Country. — Grand Scenery.

Guetaria, June 1797.

You here receive a more minute deſcription of Guetaria than you will find in the moſt elaborate treatiſes on Geography; for, to avoid ennui, I have been employing theſe three days paſt in making myſelf fully acquainted with the place.

The town of Guetaria, which contains near three hundred inhabitants, ſtands at the foot of a mountain encompaſſing a ſmall bay. A high pyramidal rock riſes oppoſite to it, being ſeparated by the ſea, but communicating with it by a narrow dyke four hundred feet long. On the right and higheſt ſide is a vaſt receſs; on the left, which is much lower, are a multitude of caſcades formed by the ſea, which rolls its waves among the granite pebbles. When the wind blows ſtrong from the ſouthward, the ſea riſes to a prodigious height, and falls on the other ſide in an extremely fine ſpray. On a projection beyond the rock is built a platform, where ſome of the pilots are always on guard, immediately to put off to ſuch veſſels as wiſh to enter the port.

The

The dyke leads directly to the foot of a great rock that commands the village; it then makes an elbow toward the right, and forms a third baſin, in which lie the fiſhing-ſmacks. The three other ſides are defended, either by the rock, or by a cauſeway laid on a reef of ſmall inferior rocks. At the end of the dyke toward the beach are a battery and a corps de garde for the defence of the bay.

To the ſummit of the rock is near an hour's walk, conſtantly winding through fields and brambles: but though from below the points ſeem impaſſable, yet it contains a chapel, and a hermitage, but which at preſent is uninhabited. The view of the ſea it affords is immenſe, and the ſpectator ſhudders on looking down at the abyſs, while the ſteep and ſhining ſides of the rock are continually laſhed by the foaming waves.

Guetaria has only one well-built houſe, belonging to an Indiano; that is, a man who has made a fortune in America. He may have about a thouſand dollars per annum, but his countrymen believe him poſſeſſed of millions. I became acquainted with him, and found him affable and well-informed. As he has no heirs, he ſpends his money, and does a great deal of good. He has made, for inſtance, at the foot of the mountain, a very fine well, and has a ſcheme of forming a new road to communicate with ſome of the adjacent parts.

parts. He is generally carried in a ſedan by two young girls; but his only enjoyment ſeems to conſiſt in ſmoking the fineſt Havannah tobacco, and he had a ſtock of above two hundred pounds of cigars. His houſe is the only one, not even excepting thoſe of the eccleſiaſtics, that has glaſs windows, iron balconies, drinking glaſſes, arm chairs, or pewter plates.

The mountain, at the foot of which this place ſtands, is cultivated in a ſuperior manner. What a charming proſpect! As the ſpectator gradually aſcends, and the reef of rocks that ſurround the bay unfold themſelves, till he reaches the ſummit, he views the vaſt extent of ocean before him, and the ſteep ſhores that on either ſide loſe themſelves among the clouds: the eye ranges over a long ridge of mountains covered with flowers and interſperſed with trees; here it beholds the bay covered with fiſhing-ſmacks; there, the town and gardens; and, farther on, the mountain itſelf. What a rich ſcene! what luxury of vegetation! everywhere fields, buſhes, vineyards, cheſnut-trees, and myrtles, and on all ſides fountains and caſcades. In ſhort, 'tis a ſcene at once magnificent and wild; and the ocean, on which the eye looks down with aſtoniſhment, gives it additional charms.

LETTER XVII.

The Maſs.—Eccleſiaſtics.—Latin Eloquence.—Sardine Fiſhery.—Departure.

Guetaria, June 1797.

We have been hoping in vain for a fair wind, of which as yet there is not the leaſt appearance: the captain however goes on ſhore daily to fill his bota, or leathern bottle, and to hear maſs; and at firſt I thought it right alſo to go to church, to avoid offending my ſhipmates.

Indeed, every man being educated in one ſect or another, why ſhould we not waive our own habits and cuſtoms, to procure the good-will of our neighbours; for after all, it is here mere matter of cuſtom, and I conſider every cuſtom, in matters of religion, as an affair of police.

But would you imagine, that in this little place there are no leſs than ten eccleſiaſtics. Two of theſe once addreſſed me in Latin: "Bona terra eſt Hiſpania," ſaid one; "Tellus optimus et divitiſſimus," added the other: "Non moriebimur per famem," reſumed the firſt; "habemus ſeges et vineas, campos et boves, caſtaneas et multas pomas." Thus the converſation went on in this barbarous Latino-Hiſpanic ſtyle; our friend L. would

would have been highly amuſed to hear them. Theſe eccleſiaſtics meet every evening regularly at a public houſe, where they muſter round a large diſh of ſardines, and a pitcher of ſtill more capacious magnitude, in which they drown all the cares of their holy office.

Theſe ſardines, or *ſardiñas*, ſupply the inhabitants not only with a cheap kind of food, but alſo a profitable article of trade; and the fiſhery is conſiderable in June, July, and Auguſt. Three or four boats jointly extend a large net, with which they form a circle, and then wait ſeveral hours at anchor: when they perceive by their floats that the net is full, they draw it in, and the quantity they catch is immenſe. The uſual price is about a halfpenny a dozen. A conſiderable quantity are ſalted for winter; and when ſalted, or ſmoked, they ſell for about three farthings the dozen. This fiſh is of the ſame ſpecies with the *bretling*, caught on the coaſts of Holſtein; and not the ſame as is ſold in Germany under the name of ſardine, which is the anchovy of the French, and is caught in the Mediterranean.

On board the San Joſef.

The wind has ſuddenly become fair. A ſea-voyage is an exact image of human life. As we propoſed to ſet ſail at day-break, I came on board laſt night. My bill amounted only to two piaſtres for ſix days, and my hoſt and hoſteſs took an affectionate

fectionate leave of me. Our ſailors, together with the captain, feaſted themſelves at the public houſe the evening before our departure, and it was near one in the morning when we got on board. The full moon illumined the ſea and mountains, the ſhadow of the veſſel trembled on the boſom of the deep, and to the eaſtward the light-houſe of San Sebaſtian caſt a glare over the dark ſhade of the coaſt.

Before ſun-riſe we were out of the bay. The wind was fair, the ſea calm, and we had nothing to fear but Engliſh privateers: but as the coaſt was in ſhade, we kept under the land, hoping thereby to eſcape notice.

Toward noon we hailed a fiſhing-ſmack, and exchanged a bottle of French brandy for a large diſh of ſardines; but having no gridiron, we dreſſed them on wooden ſticks, and ate them with a keen appetite.

The greater part of the coaſt is ſkirted with high and ſhining rocks, interſperſed here and there with a few buſhes of myrtle; and from time to time the openings between the mountains preſented us with charming views up the country, or of a beautiful and intereſting ſhore. At length night came on, and we dropped anchor.

LETTER XVIII.

Bay of Bilboa.—Its firſt Appearance.—Portogalete.—Charming Banks of the River of Bilboa.—Olavijaja.—Approach to Bilboa.—Caſa de Antonio.

Bilboa, June 1797.

WHEN I aroſe this morning, I was much pleaſed to ſee our Bilboa pilot again. He had come off the evening before with a veſſel, and had caſt anchor near us during the night. A ſmart breeze filled our ſails, and we ſoon made the promontory of Machicaco, though not without fears of falling into the clutches of ſome privateer that might be lying in ambuſh; but our good fortune did not forſake us. The flags we ſaw along this coaſt were Spaniſh. We doubled the cape without difficulty, and at length landed in the bay of Bilboa.

Imagine to yourſelf a mountain on the right covered with verdure, along which runs a village of white houſes, interſperſed with fields and orchards; on the left a low flat rocky ſhore clothed with buſhes, and in the diſtance a ridge of mountains that rear their menacing brows toward heaven, and you will have an idea of the firſt appearance of the bay of Bilboa.

But

But on approaching nearer, other objects begin to unfold. On the right we perceived the village of Portogalete with its church upon a height; on the left a small hamlet concealed amid vineyards and clumps of trees, and in front a multitude of vessels ready to sail. We passed the bar in safety, and the tide carried us rapidly up the river.

I could not give you a better idea of its charming banks than by comparing them with the views upon the lake of Waldstetten in Switzerland, excepting that the river being narrower than the lake, its frequent windings give its views a more interesting variety. Thus we are surprised by a sudden view of the convent of San Nicolas upon the summit of a mountain with its shaded terraces, at the foot of it a whole fleet of ships riding at anchor, and beyond it a chapel, a cluster of houses embosomed in foliage and surrounded by fields and vineyards. The whole country has a general character that brought Switzerland strongly to my mind.

As we approached the port itself, half an hour before we arrived at Bilboa, the river, which is rather small, became narrower and narrower. The right bank is skirted with steep rocks, and is adorned with a superb quay; on the other are fertile fields, which pursue the acclivity of high mountains. We passed along a triple row of vessels, and cast anchor safely off a harbour called Olavijaja.

Accuſtomed to the broad rivers of the north of Germany, you would be ſurprized to find on this narrow and tranquil ſtream all the advantages of navigation unaccompanied by any of the inconveniencies of that dangerous element. Whenever I contemplate theſe banks, ſo near to each other, and ſo gay and ſmiling, theſe mountains covered with verdure, and theſe rich fields, I fancy myſelf beholding in miniature the environs of the Garonne, which I have lately quitted.

I agreed to travel on foot together with our captain the remainder of our way to the town, which as yet we could not ſee. Our road followed the bank of the river, and was adorned with country-houſes and gardens. We ſoon came in ſight of the towers of Bilboa, ſtill having the river cloſe to us, walked through a magnificent avenue of trees, paſſed a convent and ſome other houſes, and then found we were in the midſt of Bilboa. I doubt whether the environs of any other maritime town afford more pictureſque or more romantic views. We paſſed along the broad quay, which was lined with ſhips, and entered an inn called Caſa de Antonio.

Every object around me here has ſomething very ſingular in its appearance, and their forms are quite original and foreign. The rooms are covered with floor-cloth repreſenting bull-fights, the ſeats mean, old-faſhioned, and extremely low, the floors are brick,

brick, and the walls full of ſaints and crucifixes.

But I muſt lay down my pen; for I hear the bells of the nunnery oppoſite my inn and beyond the river ringing for veſpers, and the people are crowding into the ſala.

LETTER XIX.

Situation of Bilboa.—Ridges of Mountains.—The River and its Sand-banks.—Architecture.—Population.

Bilboa, July 1797.

Bilboa is ſituated in a valley cloſe to the river Ybeyzabal (which in the baſque language ſignifies the narrow river), about three hours' way from the ſea. Above the town the valley is ſo narrow, that the royal or high road (camino real) has been cut through one of the neighbouring mountains. This ſame valley grows narrower ſtill above Bilboa, which ſtands in a more ſpacious angle, and forms a triangle. In this baſin, as it may be called, the town is continually expoſed in autumn and winter to ſudden and violent ſhowers, but on the other hand it is ſheltered from the north wind, and enjoys all the advantages of a fine alpine country.

Imagine to yourſelf two ranges of mountains, one oppoſite to the other, terminating in gentle hills, and forming below a narrow valley almoſt entirely filled by the river. Theſe mountains, like all the neighbouring country, are interſperſed with fields and houſes, embelliſhed with the greateſt variety of plantations, vineyards, cheſnut and apple trees,

trees, vegetables, maize, &c. Nothing can equal the riches and magnificence diſplayed by Nature on every ſide. Theſe two ranges of mountains advance almoſt in a ſtraight line to the coaſt, where they open, and the river widening confounds its waters with the ocean.

A few leagues above the town the river ſcarcely appears more than a large brook, though at the commencement of the valley it turns ſeveral mills. But ſoon its banks again approximate, and the ſtream rolls with a roaring noiſe over the rocks. Near Bilboa it is ſo low that moſt carriages paſs through it; but near the firſt bridge its bed widens, a few paces lower it bears ſmall ſhips, and a little farther ſhips of 300 tons burthen.

It is ſaid that at moſt a century ago larger veſſels came up to the town, but a ſand-bank in the middle of the ſtream has ſince increaſed ſo much, that it cannot now be paſſed with the higheſt tide. Indeed at low water the river is confined to ſo narrow a bed, that two boats can ſcarcely go abreaſt. The conſulate of Bilboa is now taking into conſideration a plan propoſed by an Iriſhman to remove this ſand-bank; and it is very deſirable this plan may be adopted, as it would be extremely advantageous to the trade of the town, at leaſt in point of convenience.

The town of Bilboa, as I have ſaid, is ſituated on the right bank of the river in a receſs of the valley. Two bridges, the firſt of which is of wood, and conſiſts of a ſingle arch, join it with another quarter on the left bank. The upper part is antique and unpleaſant, the ſtreets narrow, and the houſes rather high, but ill built. All the ſtreets of this part end in the great ſquare, along one ſide of which the river flows. In this ſquare, excepting the town-houſe, which is adorned with gilt balconies of good workmanſhip, there is not a ſingle edifice deſerving notice: but the lower part of the town is new, and contains three fine broad ſtreets, all ending at the *arenal* or promenade along the bank of the river. The houſes are all built of freeſtone, ſome of them magnificent, and there is a very fine row of houſes built a few years ago behind the arenal. This part is ſeparated from the promenade by a circus uſed for the game of ballon (juego de pelota), a game to which the inhabitants are extremely partial, and on which they are very fond of betting. From thence the ſpectator has a grand view of the river, the valley, and the mountains.

As to the population, Bilboa ſeems at firſt ſight ſcarcely able to contain 8000 inhabitants; but they are ſo crowded and heaped together, that they amount to 13,000; and the houſes, which

are

are four and five ſtories high, are ſo fully inhabited even to the roofs, that a very ſmall apartment with an alcove lets for fifty piaſtres a-year; add to which that a ſpaniſh family generally occupy much leſs ſpace than a family of Germans. Thus you will eaſily conceive how many individuals a houſe may contain. Building however goes on every day, becauſe the war compels the rich capitaliſts ſo to employ their money. Perhaps alſo the upper part of the town may one day be improved and embelliſhed, the appearance of which is more cheerful becauſe it is on a declivity and forms a kind of terrace.

In the old town the houſes are built moſtly of wood, in the new of brick. The former are deſtitute of art or convenience, but in the latter we find a prodigious improvement of taſte. In lieu of the heavy balconies of wood, they are of iron, and very neatly manufactured; and in lieu of the wooden ſhutters and ſmall round panes of glaſs uſed in the old houſes, we find large panes and venetian blinds. The only thing, that aſtoniſhes and diſguſts foreigners, is the finding certain conveniencies placed in the kitchen and cloſe to the chimney.

LETTER XX.

Promenades at Bilboa.—The Arenal.—The Road to Olavijaja.—The Road through Albia over the River.—Ranges of Mountains to the right and left.—Promenades above the Town.

Bilboa, July 1797.

LET us now begin our walks round Bilboa. The burning ſolano or eaſt wind has given place to a cooling zephyr, and a refreſhing ſea-breeze has reanimated the creation.

We will firſt pay a viſit to the arenal, as it is called. Four rows of elms and linden trees form its fine tufted walks; on the right is a magnificent church with two towers, on the left the river, the banks of which are well cultivated, and the back ground is formed by the mountains. Going on by the Auguſtin monaſtery, and paſſing a ſecond avenue of trees, the eye beholds without obſtruction a grand proſpect comprehending the whole courſe of the river and the two chains of mountains I have already ſpoken of.

Thus we arrive at Olavijaja, where we take a view of the magnificent group of mountains which ſeem to unite behind Bilboa, and which preſent to the eye all the pomp of luxuriant fertility. To return along the other ſide we croſs a ferry.

After

After the tumult of the port we have juſt quitted, we enjoy with ſo much more pleaſure the ſolitude of the convent of Franciſcans ſhaded by enormous cheſnut-trees.

Here we behold a magnificent proſpect. On all ſides are hills clothed with verdure, vineyards, cheerful and peaceful dwellings. The innumerable windings of the road exhibit the greateſt variety of proſpects, labourers cultivating the earth with their iron ſpades and ſinging as they work, women occupied on the banks of the brooks and rivulets, while at a diſtance we hear the tinkling of bells calling the inhabitants of the cloiſtered cell to veſpers. Thus we proceeded as far as the the village of Albia, which is oppoſite to Olavijaja.

Yeſterday I conducted you along the banks of the river: we will now take a range among the mountains. You remember no doubt the wild romantic regions of the Alps, their numerous ſprings and fountains, ſometimes limpid, ſometimes foaming amid the moſs-grown rocks, the picturesque ſhrubberies and plantations that overlook the abyſſes, and the blue mountains that form the happy retreats of our beloved Helvetians: here you would find the ſame landſcapes, the ſame romantic ſcenery.

We have proceeded half way, and are now cloſe to the capuchin monaſtery. The miſt that covered

covered the valley already begins to diſperſe, and we breathe a purer air; the valley unfolds beneath our feet, but the objects ſtill appear too near us, and the horizon too much circumſcribed. We go from height to height, and after an hour's climbing, arrive at length at the ſummit of the mountain.

Here ſtand two ſignal-ſtaves for veſſels; for which reaſon this point is called *Punta de las Banderas*, or ſimply *Las Banderas:* for when a ſhip enters the bay a red flag is hoiſted, and when they ſail out a white one; if a ſhip is wrecked on the coaſt, a black one; and when privateers appear in ſight, white and red. This point being the higheſt, and viſible from the principal ſtreets of Bilboa, theſe news ſpread inſtantly.

Wherever I turn my eyes, what majeſtic ſcenery! what an aſtoniſhing variety of enchanting objects! Theſe awful mountains, this fertile vale interſperſed with peaceful dwellings, this rivulet that meanders ſoftly beneath the ſhade, that harbour with a foreſt of ſhipping, and the boundleſs ocean rolling along in all the majeſty of its ſilver light! This country equals the moſt raviſhing proſpects in Switzerland, and is perhaps ſuperior to it on account of its vicinity to the ſea. As we deſcend the mountain, we enjoy quite a different proſpect, and a total change of ſcenery. On leaving the capuchin monaſtery, we find a very convenient

convenient flight of ſteps cut in the rock by a biſcayan gentleman for the accommodation of his confraternity.

The paths on the left ſide of the mountain are no leſs convenient and eaſy, than thoſe on the oppoſite ſide are painful and difficult. Apparently attention has here been paid to the wants of the hamlets and fiſhermen who ſupply Bilboa with fiſh. The road is broad, well paved, and in many places has a ſtrong reſemblance to thoſe of the leſſer Saint-Bernard. At one of the moſt beautiful points of view we perceived the lower mountains, the town, and in the bottom the river with its cultivated banks. As we were nearer to the port, we clearly diſtinguiſhed the ſhips, but an immenſe rock obſtructed our view of the ſea.

The proſpect, though of a different character, is not leſs beautiful on the mountains that command the town, and from which the eye takes in the whole of the valley. Along the bank of the river and on the ſide of the mountains are two promenades, at one of which, called *Los Canos*, there are ſuch beautiful proſpects and ſo commodious a pavement, that it is one of the pleaſanteſt walks I have ſeen. The promenade called Paſſeo de los Agoſtinos on the declivity of the mountains to the eaſtward, combines novelty and beauty in its proſpects. But why talk of ſo many different promenades. The environs of Bilboa form but one.

LETTER XXI.

Corpus Chriſti, or Holy Thurſday.—The Proceſſion.—Groteſque Figures.—Angelos or Angels.—Bull-Fight.—Aficionados.—Dogs.—Embolado.

Bilboa, July 1797.

I AM now to give you a deſcription of ſome feſtivals, that were celebrated ſoon after my arrival here.

The firſt was the Corpus Domini or Holy Thurſday, one of the principal roman catholic feſtivals, built on one of the moſt important dogmas of that religion, and at the ſame time the moſt lucrative for the clergy. It is this popular religious fête that gives date to the moſt important civil tranſactions and the principal domeſtic events. It alſo gives occaſion, or affords a pretext, for a multitude of public and private amuſements, and for that reaſon, as well as for many others, is in high veneration with the peculiar protégées of Saint Anthony, I mean the taylors.

On the eve of this day all the church towers were illuminated, large fires were lighted on all the mountains, and from two in the morning all the bells were in motion. At ſix the ſtreets were full of people crowding round the altars, which

were richly decorated, and the balconies were loaded with ſpectators; but the proceſſion did not begin till near ten o'clock.

Four gigantic figures, two men and two women, dreſſed up in a ridiculous manner, began the march. They had long periwigs made of flax, and coeffures of red oiled cloth, ancient dreſſes, ſuch as copes and other ſtrange and groteſque habiliments. They had ſnuff-boxes as large as a plate, and fans an ell long. They pretended to be about to embrace the ſpectators in the balconies, which they almoſt reached, and at the corner of every ſtreet danced a very pretty fandango. "But how," you will aſk, "could all this be contrived?" Nothing more eaſy. The figures, except the head and arms, are mere machines dreſſed up, beneath which are men who give them motion.

After theſe came a band of muſic and a multitude of angelos, or little boys and girls, moſtly in rich dreſſes, with long paſteboard wings covered with ſatin. It is a faſhion for good families thus to dreſs up their children for this proceſſion.

The ſuperſtition and the vanity of parents are alike deeply concerned, and make every one rival his neighbour, and endeavour if poſſible to ſurpaſs him. The children are loaded with jewels, and their heads are ſhaded by a tower of hair, in order to have long treſſes floating between their wings,

wings. They are covered with every poſſible decoration, careſſes are laviſhed on them, their pockets filled with ſweatmeats, and every one beholds them with a ſort of reſpect, which the little creatures ſeem to command by their proud and magiſterial air.

After theſe came the various confraternities with their reſpective ſaints, moſtly in wood, and tolerably well ſculptured. They were dreſſed in velvet or ſilk, and crowned with flowers. A ſecond band of muſic and clouds of incenſe announced the VENERABILE, that is the hoſt, and a crowd of men and women dreſſed in gala cloſed the proceſſion.

If the morning was conſecrated to devotion, the afternoon was appropriated to the *corrida* or bull-fight. This ſpecies of popular feſtival will be the more intereſting to you, as it is but little known in Germany. The expectation excited by this amuſement, the preparation of the ſcene of action, and the arrival of the bulls had thrown all Bilboa into a ferment; nor was any thing ſpoken of but the corpus domini and the bull-fight, and the great and little children alike thought of nothing but the approaching combat, and amuſed themſelves with jouſting at artificial bulls. During the laſt three days the bulls were led about the town in grand proceſſion amid the acclamations of the populace, and at night in particular the ſquare was filled with an innumerable crowd of people.

At

At each end of the ſquare an amphitheatre was erected, and the whole incloſed with high paliſades. The benches and balconies on either ſide bent under the weight of the ſpectators; the church ſteeples, the roofs of the houſes, the neighbouring bridge, the buildings beyond the river, even the hills and franciſcan convent upon the height, were all full of people, and in the ſquare itſelf was a crowd of *aficionados* or amateurs, who came there to be active in ſtriking the bulls, but ſo as to eſcape in caſe of need by leaping over the paliſades.

In ſpeaking of this diverſion we muſt obſerve a diſtinction between the *corridas de toros* and the *corridas de novillos*: the former are the great bull-fight properly ſo called, in which the combatants are on horſeback, and the bulls muſt be killed; deſcriptions of which everywhere abound. There are alſo engravings publiſhed in twelve plates of various ſizes, repreſenting the twelve principal ſcenes of a bull-fight. Theſe are taken from nature, and expreſs the minuteſt details. There is a copy of them in ſmall in the laſt (german) edition of Bourgoanne's travels. The corridas de novillos are combats of young heifers, in which the beaſt only receives ſlight wounds, and is irritated and provoked into fury. But to return to my deſcription.

The ſquare was covered with ſand, and the place where the bulls were kept was by the ſide of one of

the amphitheatres. It was open at top, and each bull had a ſeparate ſtall. Here ſeveral aficionados mounted on the planks and irritated the bulls to make them furious. At length the corregidor or mayor gave the ſignal, when a ſerjeant dreſſed in white opened this incloſure, and had ſcarcely leaped out of the way before the bull furiouſly ruſhed into the arena.

Several men on foot expected him with banderillas or darts, but he ran impetuouſly toward the four ſides of the ſquare ſeeking a way out. In the middle of the crowd, who held out pikes, hay-forks, ſticks, and paraſols, the aficionados were diſtinguiſhable, emulating each other, and ſtriving who firſt ſhould place his hat or his cloak on the horns of the beaſt, or ſtrike him. But one could ſcarcely avoid laughing at the agility and ridiculous poſtures with which they ſcrambled over the baluſtrades as ſoon as the bull ſeemed ſeriouſly to aim at them. But the banderillas were ſoon infinitely multiplied, and in a ſhort time the bull had no retreat; he was covered with them, and flew away ſeveral times, roaring and ſhedding torrents of blood. The ſpectators deſirous of varying their amuſement, now cried on all ſides for the dogs (los perros! los perros!) and at length a great bull-dog was let looſe at him.

A new

A new combat now commenced, in which the different inſtinct of the two animals was apparent, the one endeavouring to conquer by art, the other by force. The dog always attacked his enemy ſideways, and turned off at every motion of the bull, who always kept his horns ready to toſs him in the air, which he frequently did. If the dog avoided the blow, and at length ſucceeded in ſeizing the bull, the latter dragged him along in fury, and ſtruggled to trample him under foot or daſh him in pieces againſt the incloſure. Another dog was then ſet at him, and he remained without defence. He ſtill dragged the dogs indeed along, but the latter kept their hold, and continued to hang by his ears.

To ſeparate them, eight very ſtrong men advanced into the arena, ſeized the bull by the tail to deprive him of the uſe of his ſtrength, then took him by the hindfeet, threw him down, and pinched him in a tender part. Thus he lay quite faint and lifeleſs, and the dogs immediately quitted their hold. A few minutes after the bull roſe again, roaring, trembling, and ſeeming again to ſeek the enemy. At this moment ſome cows were ſent into the area, and he followed them very readily into the ſtalls. Another bull was then turned out, and the ſame ſcene renewed ſix or ſeven times ſucceſſively. During the fight no muſic was heard, except that a few beats of the drum announced

from time to time a change of ſcene. During the intervals the ſpectators took their refreſhments *(merienda)*. They ſhowed their impatience by ſhaking in concert their handkerchieves in the air, and applauded any maſterly addreſs (golpos excellentes) by acclamations of bien! bien!

Surely nothing but early habit and education can attach the Spaniards to this cruel diverſion, nothing but a miſtaken ambition, a want of cultivation, and the ignorance of man's true pleaſures, can nouriſh this barbarous and inhuman paſſion, and we ought to bluſh for mankind, when we behold our brethren making a feſtival of ſuch atrocity.

At night I was witneſs to a very comic ſcene. The ſquare was illuminated with faggots of fir and ſome barrels covered with whale oil in the middle, and the place was crowded with people, when all on a ſudden a young bull was let looſe among them with his horns tipped with leather (embolado); and the fires, the crowd, and the muſic, ſo terrified him, that he ruſhed among the ſpectators and threw them down by dozens. At length a cloak was thrown over him, rockets and ſquibs were faſtened on him, and this pleaſantry, which at firſt appeared likely to prove ſerious, contributed to the diverſion of the people.

LETTER XXII.

Political Conſtitution and Privileges of the Province of Biſcay.—Pride of the Inhabitants.—Municipal Adminiſtration of the Town.—The Alcalde and Corregidor.—Municipal Taxes.—Police.—Singular Law.—Priſons.—Law againſt Ingratitude.

Bilboa, Aug. 1797.

THE province of Biſcay is well known to be a province not properly dependent on, but only under the protection of the ſpaniſh crown. It is indeed a kind of political anomaly to ſee a ſmall republic thus united to ſuch a monarchy as Spain. But however unlimited may be the power of the kings of Spain in their other provinces, it is a truth, that in Biſcay they have only the ſhadow of domination. Here are neither garriſons, cuſtom-houſes, ſtamps, nor exciſe (ſiſa); in ſhort, of all the royal taxes, they know none but the *donativo* or gratuitous donation. Biſcay is governed by itſelf and receives by mere condeſcenſion a corregidor and a commiſſary of marine; but does not permit any order of the Spaniſh government to be executed without the ſanction of that of the province. It cannot however be denied, that the privileges of the province and the pretenſions of the crown are

very often in oppoſition, and that the former do not always ſeem to prove victorious.

All the inhabitants of Biſcay call themſelves hidalgos or gentlemen. It is only in Biſcay, ſay they, that the antient cantabrian nobility has been preſerved without mixture of mooriſh or foreign blood, and they add, that the king himſelf does not approach to the nobility of a Biſcayan. The loweſt labourer and the greateſt lord of the province are in this reſpect perfectly equal, but the provincial government is in the hands of the latter, and is annually renewed by the majority of the pariſhes.

As to the municipal adminiſtration of the town, they proceed annually after chriſtmas to the election of eight *regidores*, in whom the right of voting of the inhabitants is each time veſted. Theſe regidores chooſe their aſſeſſors, theſe chooſe the alcaldes and other functionaries, who chooſe the conſulado or tribunal of commerce. All theſe offices are diſcharged gratis; but the regidores and alcaldes enjoy ſome advantages in conſequence of wine leaſes, which ſubject the former each time to a conſiderable tax. The alcalde gains ſtill more by law-ſuits; for it has now become a cuſtom to fee the judge. It muſt be obſerved however, that pleadings before the alcaldes are oral, as they are in writing before the regidors, the former being civil, and the latter criminal judges. At Bilboa the deciſions of the latter are in all caſes without appeal, except

except to the ſuperior tribunals of Valladolid and Madrid.

In the town there are no taxes except a very ſmall land-tax and a voluntary contribution to the hoſpital. There is not the leaſt exciſe or cuſtom-houſe duty. Bilboa is even almoſt without gates, being always open to every traveller. The paſſage over the bridge alone is ſhut every night with an iron grating, but of which the bars are ſo wide, that it is eaſy to paſs through!

The police is not entirely neglected. There is a code of regulations on that ſubject, which every alcalde publiſhes in the ſame order, at leaſt once a year. Among theſe ſome concern weights and meaſures, the cleanſing the ſtreets, the ſafety of flower pots in balconies, &c. One of the moſt ancient and the moſt reſpected prohibits the uſe of carriages, which indeed could not be employed on account of the narrowneſs of the ſtreets. Thus every foreign carriage that arrives is obliged to remain without the town, where none but ſledges are admitted.

Among the new regulations of the alcaldes ſome are very ſingular. For inſtance an old alcalde who was a widower ordered that immediately after the *angelus*-bell in the evening no woman ſhould appear with a man in the ſtreets, under pain of impriſonment, and during the firſt week at leaſt

thirty were arreſted; but perſons of diſtinction finding they were too particularly included in this prohibition, the law fell into diſuſe.

I ſhall take this opportunity of ſaying ſomething on the ſubject of the priſons, which are ſituated without the town on a very fine ſpot near the ſea ſhore. Moſt of the priſoners are on the firſt floor, where they enjoy wholeſome air, together with a proſpect of the country and of the high-road. The jailer does not forget that his priſoners are hidalgos, and the paſſengers give them plenty of alms. The only cauſe of regret is that no diſtinction is made between perſons confined for debt and criminals; but great crimes are ſo uncommon in Biſcay, that not a ſingle inſtance is remembered during the laſt ſix and forty years.

I muſt tell you of a phenomenon in legiſlation here, namely that among the ancient laws is one againſt ungrateful children or wards, by which they are condemned to pay certain pecuniary fines for the uſe of their benefactors. But it is ſo difficult to inveſtigate theſe hear-ſay tales, that I dare not affirm it as a fact.

LETTER XXIII.

Simple Manners and general Character of the Biſcayans.—Amuſements of Bilboa.—Romerias.—Tertullas.—Coffee-Houſes.—Wine-Houſes.—Concerts of Amateurs.—Women.

Bilboa, Aug. 1797.

SIMPLICITY is no leſs conſpicuous in the manners than in the political conſtitution of Biſcay, and if I were to deſcribe the province in one word, I ſhould ſay that Biſcay is the ſpaniſh Alps inhabited by Griſons. The Biſcayners have the ſame hatred for innovation, the ſame ſturdineſs, the ſame love of their country and of liberty, and the ſame uprightneſs of character, but like their climate they have more fire and more vivacity.

We muſt not then expect to find at Bilboa (however rich the town may be) the ſame amuſements as in other parts. There is no theatre, no library, &c.; promenades, romerias or public balls, and tertullas (pronounced tertulias) or evening converſation parties, are the only reſources the place affords.

Of the promenades the inhabitants are paſſionately fond, and the ladies ſtrive who ſhall appear there with the greateſt brilliancy. At firſt the appearance of ſo many people in black veils ſeems rather

rather dull, but the eye is ſoon accuſtomed to it, and the wearers only ſeem the more amiable.

I muſt now tell you of the romerias. The Biſcayans have a national dance, which concludes nearly like the fandango, and which is accompanied by a ſingular ſpecies of muſic with ſmall tambourines and little flutes. A ſtring of young women taking each other by the hand follow the leader in a ſtraight line, who from time to time turns back and foots it to the reſt. There is a kind of nobility and grace in all her motions. The reſt only file off careleſsly behind her.

On the other hand, the young men led in like manner by a corypheus form another row, who by degrees approach the women who advance before them, when ſuddenly the muſic changes to a quicker meaſure, and each of the young men being oppoſite to a lady, they begin a fandango, of which the rapid geſticulations have a ſingular effect difficult to be deſcribed. Theſe meetings take place in ſummer almoſt every Sunday and feaſt day, ſometimes in one place, ſometimes in another, and are called romerias.

A romeria is a feſtival for all Bilboa, and there are almoſt as many ſpectators as dancers; for the paſſion for that amuſement is univerſal. The ſcene is generally beneath ſome tufted ſhade near ſome houſe of entertainment, but as there are always more women than men, the former often dance together

gether, which does not prevent their enjoying the amuſement extremely. But their chief pleaſure conſiſts in archly running againſt people, eſpecially thoſe who are not dancing, crying out with a loud laugh *toma la culada*, and the falls this occaſions are ſometimes very laughable. This pleaſantry becomes more frequent about duſk, before the place is illuminated with barrels covered with whale oil. The muſic coſts nothing, theſe expenſes, which are very ſmall, being defrayed by the monaſteries, religious confraternities, rich individuals, or the town. There are even endowments expreſsly for that purpoſe.

We will now ſpeak of the tertullas, which have however been deſcribed by other travellers, and which are the ſame at Bilboa as elſewhere. The women appear there in faſhionable coloured dreſſes in which they cannot go out except in the evening. Strangers eaſily find admittance in conſequence of their letters of introduction, but whether through pride or ignorance, they receive there no perſonal attentions. Accuſtomed to good ſociety in France and Germany they feel in ſome meaſure inſulated and awkward in theſe companies, where a mere local converſation prevails, and every thing they ſee fills them with diſguſt or ennui. In fact Bilboa has all the defects of ſmall towns, and theſe are by no means inconſiderable in the ſmall towns of Spain.

As

As to public amuſements, there are none except a few coffee-houſes and public houſes, and a foreigner is ſurpriſed at not finding more in ſo important a commercial town. One of theſe coffee-houſes near the arenal is kept by a Swedo-German of Wiſmar, who has married a Dutch woman and turned catholic. As he alſo furniſhes dinners, and his wife knows a little of all the languages, moſt of the captains of ſhips meet there. In the entreſuelo [or ſmall ſtory between the ground flour and principal rooms], and which are here uſed as warehouſes, are very indifferent billiard tables, with which people are forced to content themſelves. The other coffee-houſes are ſtill worſe. A Frenchman intends to ſet up one more convenient at the other end of the arenal.

Along the quays and road leading to Olavijaja are wine houſes very much frequented by ſailors and captains of ſhips. Their reputation is ſomewhat ambiguous, but the coarſe mirth that prevails there gives great variety and animation to this promenade.

Of late a concert of amateurs has been formed, for which the place is principally indebted to the bohemian merchants eſtabliſhed here. It is generally they, who together with their domeſtics compoſe the town band of Bilboa with the aſſiſtance of two german trumpeters paid by the public. Theſe gentlemen have alſo collections of muſic, with

which they furniſh the churches; for the inhabitants of Bohemia, as is well known, are almoſt born muſical. Their attendants conſtitute the chief ornament of the feaſts of the conſulado (dias de campo), and they faſcinate all Bilboa with the marches they play as they return at night by water in barges magnificently illuminated.

So much for the amuſements of Bilboa. Thoſe who wiſh for books or newſpapers may find ſome in Spaniſh at the bookſtalls, where are alſo ſold leaden pencils and ſealing-wax. In all the great foreign houſes however are found the beſt French newſpapers and ſome good libraries.

I ſhall conclude with a few words relative to the women. In my opinion they combine the dignity of the Spaniſh with the beauty of the Engliſh. Their freſh complexions, their black and ſparkling eyes, their fine hair, their embonpoint, the harmony of their perſons, the vivacity of their converſation, all charm and faſcinate every ſtranger that beholds them. If the men underſtood the art of forming them, if their abilities were developed by a more general cultivation, if an exceſſive reſerve, a little ſtiffneſs, and a pride that borders on rudeneſs, did not countervail their other amiable qualities, their charms would be irreſiſtible and their power unbounded. In the inferior claſſes they are ſtrong and laborious, and are employed as porters

porters to carry very heavy burdens. In general throughout all conditions the manners of this people are, according to credible witneſſes, the pureſt of all Spain.

LETTER XXIV.

Commerce of Bilboa.—Exports.—Wool.—Cheſnuts, &c.—Manner of ſhipping them.—Imports.—Internal Commerce.—Tiendas.—Smuggling.—Foreign Trade.—Bohemian Houſes.—Difficulties in obtaining Permiſſion to eſtabliſh Houſes of Trade.—Hatred toward the French.—Emigrant French Prieſts.—The Baſque Language.

Bilboa, Sept. 1797.

Of all the northern coaſt of Spain Bilboa is undeniably the moſt important port; yet its articles of exportation are very few, conſiſting only of wool, cheſnuts, iron, and oil.

Merchants purchaſe wool by means of their agents in the inland provinces, and ſend it to England, France, and Holland. Theſe cargoes conſiſt annually of 50 or 60,000 bags, the value of which amounts to 5,000,000 of piaſtres. You would imagine this article has ſuffered during the war, but the contrary is the fact. The conſumption of cloth has increaſed, and the commiſſions from foreign parts have been more conſiderable.

During the time of the embarkation of this article, which is generally in the laſt months of ſummer, the ſtreets and the arenal are full of bags of wool, and the river and port crowded with boats loaded with them. In theſe boats, which are called

called *lanches gabarras* or long boats, the goods are conveyed on board, and each bag is preſſed by a machine upon deck, that the veſſel may hold its proper loading.

You will eaſily imagine, that in conveying ſo great a quantity of bags, much wool muſt fall by the way: yet no one dares pick it up, becauſe it is prohibited under pain of excommunication to touch the wool belonging to foreigners. However, I never obſerved that any one takes any care of it, and thus no doubt it becomes an abſolute loſs to the proprietors. How eaſy would it be to employ in this way the poor children which here abound, and how much more economical, if in lieu of being totally loſt it were ſpun into yarn!

Cheſnuts are another article of exportation, and grow in profuſion throughout the province, eſpecially in the part called Caſtro. They are brought to Bilboa by the peaſants in the beginning of November, and the price is regulated by the abundance of the harveſt. It is generally about a piaſtre the fanega or ſac of twenty-five pounds. All the roads are at that time covered with little carts drawn by oxen, and loaded with this article. The merchants inform their correſpondents of the day on which they intend to ſhip them, and the carts diſcharge them into boats a little above the town. A great number of perſons are then employed in weighing and picking them. As thoſe which are too ripe are liable

liable to become mouldy and to ſpoil the others, they belong of right to the poor. A conſiderable quantity is alſo ſtolen; but the great abundance of the article prevents any attention being paid to theſe trifling loſſes. The profit however of a merchant who has received commiſſions for this commodity is very uncertain. The inſurance on cheſnuts, like every article of trade that is liable to ſpoil, is reſtricted by many clauſes not applicable to other goods; and if the paſſage is long, and the bad weather prevents opening the port-holes to ventilate the goods or drying them in the ſun upon deck from time to time, half the cargo and frequently the whole is ſpoiled before it arrives. The greater part of theſe ſhipments go to London, Briſtol, Amſterdam, Bremen, and Hamburg.

Two other productions, but the exportation of which is only made to the ports of Spain itſelf, are iron and oil. The iron of Biſcay is very fit for the forge on account of its malleability, and large cargoes are ſhipped to Coruña, Ferrol, and Cadiz. The ore that contains this iron comes from the celebrated mines of Sommoroſtro, and is ſent by water to Bilboa. It is landed above the town, and from thence is ſent to the ſmelting-houſes. The director of theſe mines is a German. A part of the oil of the neighbouring parts of Caſtile is exported in ſmall boats to the neareſt ports, as for inſtance Plazencia, Ribadeo, &c.

The imports of Bilboa are very important, and include all the productions of the north. The principal articles are wheat, flax, hemp, timber, britiſh, french, and german manufactures, bacallao, cheeſe, whale oil, &c. &c. Old and New Caſtile and the north of Aragon are ſupplied from Bilboa with the greater part of theſe articles. The conſumption of bacallao is ſo great, that the Danes, who carry on that branch of trade ſince the war with England, namely about the end of the year 1796, have received from Bilboa in exchange above a million of piaſtres, although the norwegian fiſh is far inferior to that of Newfoundland.

From what has been ſaid you will perceive, that Bilboa carries on a very important inland trade, and on ſome days as many as forty mules ſet off to fetch theſe articles. Thus too is all Bilboa full of warehouſes (*tiendas*), and as very little is ſold retail and that very dear, the price is always kept up very high. You will eaſily imagine how the price of any goods muſt be raiſed, that paſs from the hands of the merchants to the retailers, and from them to the huckſters. Only to mention flax, of which as you know a Riga ſhipping-quintal or 400 pounds make 342 pounds of Biſcay weight, a ſhip-quintal Thifenhauſen ſells at Riga on the average at 25 albert-dollars, and at Bilboa for 65 piaſtres. The albert-dollar is worth 21 reals of vellon or one-twentieth more than a dollar. What an enormous profit!

Add

Add to this the profits of ſmuggling. At Bilboa all imports pay only one per cent.; but on paſſing the frontiers of the neighbouring provinces they pay the cuſtomary high duties. Some articles are abſolutely prohibited, as tobacco, muſlins, &c.; yet the merchants of Bilboa ſend whole cheſts of theſe manufactures, bales of tobacco for ſmoking and for ſnuff, &c. to their inland correſpondents, and bribe or deceive the cuſtom-houſe officers. The muleteers bring in great quantities of watches and jewels, and the monks ſmuggle long rolls of tobacco under their cloaks or in their ſleeves.

Of the foreign merchants the Germans are the moſt numerous. Theſe are chiefly dealers in bohemian glaſsware, who by degrees procure ſtocks of other goods, and at length deal in all ſorts of articles. Such houſes of trade are found all over Spain, and they receive the greater part of the goods that arrive from Nuremberg, Augſburg, Reinſcheid, Heilbronn, &c. by the way of Amſterdam and Hamburg. Theſe merchants formerly carried on more buſineſs than at preſent: for ſince Spain has alſo eſtabliſhed ſimilar manufactories, and the number of bohemian houſes has increaſed, it is ſaid this lucrative buſineſs has conſiderably diminiſhed.

Many difficulties, however, attend the eſtabliſhment of a foreign houſe of trade at Bilboa. To obtain permiſſion to ſettle here the applicant muſt

give proof of his nobility, that is, he muſt ſhow by inconteſtable documents, that there never has been a jew in his family. Theſe proofs are ſometimes ſtrengthened by a few ſolid piaſtres, and it often depends on the conſulado or tribunal of commerce to admit or reject the demand; for at Bilboa no foreign conſuls are recognized; but in caſe of ſhipwreck this tribunal performs the office, which is very expenſive to the concerned. Thus the intereſts of commercial men, avarice, or private pique, have always an opportunity to intrigue. This takes place principally with regard to french houſes, toward whom more rigour is uſed than with Germans, becauſe the latter are deemed a more noble nation; by which they mean of purer extraction. Hence there are only three french houſes, who only trade on commiſſion and experience innumerable difficulties.

The Biſcayans have in general a kind of national hatred for the French, which ſince the late events has increaſed among this unenlightened people even to horror, and the very name of Frenchman has become almoſt a proſcription or a ſtigma of infamy, which the populace accompany with ſtones. Heretics as they are, the Engliſh are preferred. A great number of them however have in conſequence of the war procured american paſſports.

To this hatred indeed toward the French ſome exceptions are admitted in favour of emigrant and refractory

refractory prieſts, who have been received with great generoſity and philanthropy. But as their brethren would not permit them to perform maſs in the town, they have ſpread over the neighbourhood by thouſands. Portogalete, Santa-Urſa, &c. are full of them. The number of french refugees in Spain are computed at 22,000. Beſides the revenue they derive from their maſſes (about ſixpence each) they employ themſelves in handicraft trades, practiſe phyſic, teach languages, ſerve the rich canons, and adopt every means of ſupporting their wretched exiſtence.

Previous to the 5th of September 1797, a period which robbed them of every hope of returning home, they arrived in crowds at Bilboa. A great number had already paſſed the frontiers, and thouſands had embarked and were on the point of ſailing, when that fatal cataſtrophe took place. Whatever be any man's ſect, he can ſcarcely refuſe his compaſſion to theſe unfortunate victims of terror, who having abandoned the aſylum they had juſt found in Spain, and having exhauſted their laſt reſources to re-enter their native country, were again expoſed to indigence and to the dangers of a wandering fugitive life.

I ſhall conclude this letter by ſome obſervations relative to the language of Biſcay, called Baſquenze or lengua baſcongada.

According to the beſt works on this ſubject it ſeems to be proved, that this is the ancient language of the Cantabri, which has been here preſerved pure and unmixed. Larramedi and Hervas aſſert, that it does not reſemble any known language either in its ſounds, ſignifications, or phraſeologies. Both theſe writers were ex-jeſuits, the one being a native of Biſcay, the other of Galicia. Larramedi wrote a baſco-hiſpano-latin dictionary and a grammar, which have become very ſcarce. Hervas is a celebrated philologer now at Rome. I ſhall have occaſion to ſay more of this writer when I ſpeak of the literature of Spain.

In common uſage this language has been obliged to adopt french and ſpaniſh words to expreſs new ideas in civil life; but with theſe additions it ſtill continues to be the only language of the majority of the Biſcayans, who learn very little or no *caſtellano*; nor is it entirely left off by people of condition. It ſeems full of conſonants, and notwithſtanding its accent, which is ſomewhat ſinging, it is not deſtitute of roughneſs. It is ſaid to be rich in poetical expreſſions, and to have a great ſuppleneſs, but well-informed people accuſe it of prolixity and obſcurity in its phraſes and idioms.

*** In addition to the above remarks, the following have been procured from the brother of the cele-

celebrated Monſ. de Humboldt, who is alſo himſelf well known in Germany as the author of an excellent work. He is lately returned from a tour in Spain full of intereſting information, and having compared all that has been written on the baſque language by the learned men of that country as well French as Spaniſh, he intends ſpeedily to publiſh the reſult of his very uſeful reſearches. Meanwhile he has communicated the following ideas:

" The language of Biſcay deſerves the particular attention of philologiſts, though it has hitherto been too much neglected. Yet on even ſuperficially running over the vocabulary of that language, it appears that, ſetting aſide the nouns which were unknown at the firſt civilization of that country, and which have been ſucceſſively borrowed from the Romans, the French, and the Spaniſh, the Baſque has a very great number of words peculiarly its own, and all of which have a character truly original both as to their origin and formation. This primitive language, which is underived, not to ſay unſtolen like moſt of thoſe now ſpoken in the ſouth of Europe, from the Latin, ſeems however to have, in common with the Latin, German, and even the Greek, a great number of radical words, which might ſerve as guides to etymologiſts, and afford them light in their reſearches into this ancient and primitive language, from which perhaps have ſprung moſt modern tongues, and of which it ſtill preſerves

ſome valuable remains. Even thoſe who would be alarmed at the dryneſs of ſo irkſome a purſuit would find a pleaſure in obſerving the manner in which the Biſcayans compoſe the ſigns of their ideas; that people ſcarcely employing any but complex ſigns to expreſs ideas which all other languages repreſent by ſimple ſigns, ſuch as ſun, moon, &c. It would be an object of infinite curioſity to a philoſopher to obſerve and purſue the analogy, according to which the Biſcayans combine certain ideas, ſo as to form new ſigns and expreſs their perceptions; and there would doubtleſs thence ariſe many very uſeful obſervations on the originality and mode of viewing objects exerciſed by that ingenious people. Nor is the theory of the baſque language deſtitute of utility as to the hiſtory of languages in general, their peculiar differences, and their formation. Not to mention ſeveral other ſingularities peculiar to this language, it ſeems in ſome meaſure to hold a middle place between thoſe which like the *galibies* of Guyana are abſolutely deſtitute of inflexions, expreſſing all the modifications of ideas by different words, and the moſt cultivated languages, wherein the final ſyllables are ſo intimately combined with the fundamental ſound, that they no longer appear compound, but ſimple radical ſounds, and wherein we no longer diſtinguiſh how that which was originally a compound can have become a mere modification

of

of inflexion. But hitherto the Biſcayans who have written on their language have known very little of other languages, and have had no other object in view, but to enable their readers to read, ſpeak, and write the Baſque, although the grammar of father Larramedi affords a little more of theory, which it even carries to exceſs. We have not however a ſingle dictionary that gives a general view of the families of words, nor is there as yet more than an hiſpano-biſcayan vocabulary with the baſque words in alphabetical order after the Spaniſh. The foreign writers that have ſpoken of this language in my opinion only give a very incomplete idea of it. What they have leaſt of all attended to, is the enabling their readers to judge for themſelves. They go on building ſyſtem upon ſyſtem, and are pleaſed to derive the Baſque ſometimes from the eaſtern languages, ſometimes from the celtic, but they give us very few ideas on its compoſition, not to mention that the examples they have adduced, on which to found their chimeras, are frequently ſelected with equal partiality and unſkilfulneſs; and they waſte their time in particular on uſeleſs diſputes relative to the affinity or difference of the Baſque from the Bas-breton. Monſ. Latour d'Auvergne, in his "Origines gauloiſes," conſiders their difference as demonſtrated; and as he was himſelf a Bas-breton by birth, and lived a long time among the Baſques, his opinion is entitled to the

the more reſpect. However before we pronounce definitively on the diverſity of theſe two languages, we ought to examine them much more profoundly as to their radical words, which this author, though otherwiſe of high merit, does not ſeem to have done. After all it would be much better, that a writer ſhould leave theſe doubtful points aſide, and merely furniſh philologiſts with a detailed ſynopſis of the language, endeavouring to develope its ſyſtem and grammar or lexicon as far as our imperfect data permit, and clearly to diſtinguiſh the radical words from their derivatives, in order to produce a double dictionary according to the biſcayan alphabet and according to that of ſome other language. Thus might all the families of words be collected into a ſingle point of view, and the reader comprehend the entire maſs of the ideas of that nation hitherto abandoned to itſelf. Nor can he without ſuch an inveſtigation properly eſtimate the language or draw inferences regarding it. Such an attempt might be conſidered as a preliminary ſtep to the general hiſtory of languages, ſo much to be deſired, and to a univerſal grammar. For this purpoſe the principal works to be conſulted are,

" 1. Diccionario trilingue del Caſtellano, Baſcuence y Latin, ſu autor el padre Manuel Larramedi de la compañia de Jeſus. En San-Sebaſtian, 1745, fol. 2 vol.

" 2. El

"2. El impoſible vencido; arte de la lengua Baſcongada, ſu autor —— Larramedi. En Salamanca, 1729, 8 vol.

"3. Gramatica Eſcuaraz eta Fronceſez—Um Harrit. Bayonan, 1741, 6 vol. To this grammar is added a ſmall and very imperfect vocabulary, baſque and french, and the contrary.

"Among the printed books in the baſque language one of the moſt intereſting is

"Les proverbes Baſques, recueillis par le Sr d'Ochenart; alſo Les Poéſies Baſques, by the ſame author. Paris 1657, 9 vol."

LETTER XXV.

Proviſions — Sardines, Cheſnuts, Fruits, Wines. — Climate. — Maladies. — Phyſicians.

Bilboa, Sept. 1797.

We read in many geographical works, that Bilboa is the cheapeſt place to live at in all Spain: and yet it is one of the deareſt. Of this its numerous population collected together in a very ſmall ſpace, the great afflux of foreigners, and an abundant circulation of ſpecie, ſeem to be the principal cauſes.

Hence the ſardines, of which the fiſhery is very conſiderable, ought to be eſteemed one of the greateſt benefits Nature has conferred on the poorer inhabitants. The women-dealers from Portogalete and Santa-Urſa regularly ſupply thoſe places, and are contented with ſix or ſeven quartos per dozen, which is very moderate in compariſon with other proviſions. Were any attention beſtowed on encouraging the fiſhery, there would doubtleſs ariſe an advantageous increaſe in this article. The attempts that have been made to procure another kind of fiſh reſembling cod have been crowned with the moſt flattering ſucceſs.

This

This was the more desirable, as two other species of fish formerly taken here in great quantities have much diminished during the last thirty years, namely *xibiones* (sepia) or cuttle-fish, and *anguilas* or *angullas*. The latter are only taken in winter, at which time they come up the stream and approach the shore. In colour and shape this fish resemble fine vermicelli; they are strung by hundreds, and sent to Madrid in large bottles. They are said to be a favourite dish of the queen.

In winter chesnuts afford another resource; for independently of exportation great quantities are kept, and even at retail prices sell for no more than a quarto or a farthing the dozen. During this season the poor live on maize-bread, chesnuts, or salt cod, often in a state of decay. There is however a profusion of fruits, especially apples, of which cyder is sometimes made. Some vallies also produce small sour oranges, and a bitter kind is imported by sea from the coast of Portugal.

The vine is much cultivated here, but the wine is far inferior to those of Navarre and Castile. It is a kind of light beverage of a reddish colour, and which the inhabitants call *chacoli*. It serves rather to cool than strengthen the body: the women in general drink this liquor, but the

men

men mix it with ſtronger wines. It is to be lamented that agriculture has here made ſo little progreſs, and that conſequently nothing is done to improve this wine.

The air of Bilboa and throughout Biſcay is excellent, and ſuch as may be expected in a mountainous country ſo near the ſea. The general character of the climate is an extremely mild temperature. The heats of ſummer are moderated by continual ſea-breezes, except when for a few days the ſolano or ſouth-eaſt wind oppreſſes the inhabitants. The winters are extremely mild and rather rainy, but fine days pretty frequently occur. The trees are rarely deprived of all their leaves, and the verdure begins to re-appear toward the end of January.

It is true however that theſe ſoft winters frequently produce epidemic putrid fevers, which perhaps are alſo cauſed by the food and intemperance of the inhabitants. This too is the time of year when the ſmall-pox makes the greater ravages, as the phyſicians are profoundly ignorant, and adminiſter their cooling medicines to all conſtitutions, ſtrong or weak, without diſtinction. This claſs of men ſeems ſcarcely to have taken leave of thoſe barbarous ages, when the firſt rudiments of regimen in this reſpect were unknown. Would you believe that here are phyſicians, who in

chronic rheumatiſm adminiſter nothing but an ointment of ſtorax, and that in certain cutaneous diſeaſes, which you will eaſily gueſs at, they only apply goulard or plaſters impregnated with mercury?

LETTER XXVI.

Departure from Bilboa.—Miravalles.—Deſcription of a Poſada.—Scenery.—Reminiſcences of Chamouny.—Orduña.—La Peña.—A ſtormy Night.—A Venta.—Change in the Appearance of the Country and Inhabitants.—Coſtumes.—Villa-nueva.—Sierra de Union.—Wild Appearance of the Mountains and Rocks.—Inn near Burgos.—A French Eccleſiaſtic and a Pilgrim.—Burgos.

Burgos, Oct. 1797.

THE ſcene has entirely changed theſe five days paſt, and I am now in the midſt of Old Caſtile. Soon after quitting Bilboa I was ſurrounded by mountains, but a vaſt number of loaded mules and a long train of carts drawn by oxen gave animation to the ſcene; though it is true that at firſt the creeking of theſe carriages was extremely diſagreeable, it not being the cuſtom here to greaſe the wheels.

Firſt day.—We did not ſet off till four in the afternoon, and continued travelling after ſun-ſet. The air was delicious. We were lighted by diſtant forges, and the meaſured ſound of the hammers mingled with the tedious tinkling of the mule-bells. Theſe bells (*zumbones*) are of copper and cylindric, two feet long and ſix inches in diameter, and being hung to the neck of the mule at the end

of

of the train, ſhow whether they proceed quick or ſlow. In this manner we arrived at length at Miravalles, a large village among the mountains, near the river, and near three leagues from Bilboa.

The whole *poſada* or inn was full of muleteers (*arrieros*) coming from Caſtile, ſo that thoſe who followed ſcarcely found any room. They ſoon aſſembled round a large fire, where a crowd of people began to dreſs their ſuppers. The tables were covered with plates and jugs, and the different groups crowded cloſe to each other; here two individuals playing the devil's tattoo on their pitchers, there a great newſmonger juſt arrived as he ſaid from *Bayona de Francia;* next to him a guitar-player and ſome young women toying with their ſweethearts, and beyond them ſome drunkards quarrelling. Add to theſe the ſqueaking voice of the landlady calling out and reckoning up her accounts, the confuſed voices of the gueſts calling for wine, the eloquence of the landlord endeavouring to ſell a donkey, a tambouriner playing for the young people to dance, the noiſe of the mules ſeparated from the kitchen merely by a thin partition, the barking of dogs mingling with the general uproar, and you will have an idea of this noiſy ſcene, which became intereſting through its variety and ſingularity.

Our beds however were excellent, and the bed-chamber covered with mats (*eſteras*). When I awoke the next morning I was agreeably ſurpriſed to find the ſcenery around me perfectly ſimilar to that of our delicious valley of Chamouny; the ſame form of rocks, the ſame kind of huts, and the ſame mixture of fields and plantations. Like that, a torrent is ſeen rolling from the ſummit of the mountain, nor were even the peaks of Mont-blanc wanting to embelliſh the ſcene; maſſes of ſilvery clouds rolled from peak to peak, and completed the beautiful illuſion.

Second day.—Our conductor having ſlept but little the preceding night roſe very late, ſo that we did not ſet off till ten o'clock. We paſſed through ſeveral villages, always along a delicious well-cultivated valley, from which we perceived the ſmiling proſpect of the diſtant mountains. We arrived about two o'clock at the ſmall town of Orduña at the extremity of the valley, and ſurrounded on that ſide with fine rows of trees. This place deſerves ſome attention on account of its antiquity and the ſuperb architecture of its cuſtom-houſe.

We had given our conductor permiſſion to go for half an hour to his houſe, which he ſaid was only a muſket-ſhot from the road; but he returned ſo late that we could not ſet off till five o'clock.

His

His excuſe for delaying was rather comic: "Mi muger es joven, y jamas podemos acabar con el roſario." "My wife is young, and we can never finiſh the roſary." It was therefore already growing duſk, the ſky was full of clouds that promiſed rain, and the Peña was covered with a thick fog. It was quite night when we arrived at the foot of the mountain, the wind roſe, and a gentle rain began to fall. But we had ſcarcely been an hour on the road, when both the wind and rain became heavier. The rain turned to ſnow, and the wind becoming boiſterous drove a deluge of withered leaves in our faces. It was now ſo dark that we could not ſee our conductor; but I perceived that the road was a conſtant zig-zag, as was natural in aſcending ſo ſteep an acclivity.

Our mules ſoon diſcovered the traces of another requa or ſtring of mules; for ſix or eight and ſometimes more are tied to each other by their halters. They had left Orduña an hour before us, and ours now quickened their pace. When we reached them, we found the muleteer under great embarraſſment, two of his mules having fallen. This rendered it neceſſary to unload them before they could get up, and he could not load them again without aſſiſtance. Our arrival, which he did not expect ſo ſoon, immediately relieved him from his difficulty. He therefore obliged us, with an air of generoſity quite in the ſpaniſh ſtyle, to

taſte of his large bota. Both parties were glad to find company, and thus we continued our march.

But the higher we climbed the heavier the ſtorm grew. It began to hail, the wind became a hurricane, and unfortunately we had it in our faces. The mules could ſcarcely keep on their feet, mine fell twice, and the darkneſs was dreadful. We were then at the top of the Peña; we had three hours road to go down it, and no one could diſtinguiſh the voice of his neighbour. Indeed a general ſilence prevailed; for it was equally impoſſible to hear and to ſee each other.

Our muleteer, who was on foot, quite excited my compaſſion, and yet, as it was phyſically impoſſible for me to conſole him, my pity was uſeleſs. Fearing he ſhould loſe his pay, he was inconſolable, and every moment begged us a thouſand pardons. It is true he was the cauſe of our delay, but yet he was the perſon moſt ſeverely puniſhed for it. As for me I felt it a duty to pacify him; for woe to him who increaſes the pains and misfortunes of his fellow-creatures. I ſet him therefore at his eaſe, and a few friendly words made him inſenſible to all the evils of the wind and the ſtorm.

At length we began to deſcend, and in proportion as we approached the valley the ſtorm abated. We could only go however ſtep by ſtep; and it

was midnight when we arrived at the *venta* ſituated at the foot of the mountain. Here we were very kindly received, and had reaſon to be contented with our ſleeping place.

Third day.—The valley now widened more and more, and in the afternoon, having paſſed through a fine country interſperſed with villages, we arrived after an hour's riding at Oſma, where we found the frontier cuſtom-houſe of the province of Alava. The officers were ſatisfied with feeling our pockets and bid the muleteer aſk us for drink money (*para echar un trago*), which we had already prepared to give them.

Here the cultivation began to decline, the country to ſpread, and the coſtumes and countenances to aſſume a more foreign air. The climate too became rougher, the villages were a mere heap of huts built with earth often full of holes. The churches however were always large and magnificent, nor was there any ſcarcity of convents. The fields were moſtly uncultivated, and as far as the eye could extend, we perceived neither tree nor ſhrub; in lieu of mules we frequently met ſmall aſſes called borricos, ſcarcely any oxen, but a great quantity of black ſwine and excellent flocks of ſheep. Our ſleeping places became leſs clean, and the bread as well as the water bad; but the wine was better and cheaper.

We ſoon perceived men in broad felt hats, long brown cloaks, with their feet wrapped up in rags, and knotted ſticks in their hands; in lieu of the coloured petticoats and the elegant corſets of the Biſcayans we ſaw nothing but dingy-yellow gowns, and the beautiful treſſes I have deſcribed were exchanged for ſhort hair ſtanding up covered with felt caps, and over that a black veil. The countenances we ſaw appeared longer, the features leſs beautiful, but their eyes were more brilliant and more animated. The eaſe and gaiety of the Biſcayans had diſappeared, nothing was ſeen but indigence and ſerious ſorrowful countenances, though the language ſeemed purer, and the accent more ſonorous. We croſſed the Ebro, and paſſed the night at a poor town, of which the name I believe was Villa-nueva.

Fourth day.—The road this day was tolerably ſmooth, but we only ſaw deſert heaths, and an arid calcareous ſoil. However after travelling ſome hours the valley grew narrower, and we entered among a chain of rocks, which we had long ſeen before us. It formed a part of the ſierra de union. We paſſed it in the narroweſt part, leaving it on our left, which very much ſhortened our road. The gigantic forms of theſe naked and awful rocks reminded me of thoſe which ſkirt the ice-lakes of Montpanvert in the Alps of Faucigny. Never ſhould

ſhould I have expected to have ſeen them renewed in the midſt of Spain. Here every thing wears the aſpect of the moſt hideous ſterility. We paſſed a defile, where enormous rocks were heaped together over our heads with dreadful ſublimity, and on the moſt elevated point was an hermitage. At length amid theſe heaped-up rocks we arrived at a monaſtery of capuchins, where the induſtrious monks have formed a chearful garden amid the inhoſpitable wilds, and have even brought thither a rivulet to water their plantations. What an enchanting appearance amid a deſert country, and contraſted by ſo many wild and rudely magnificent objects!

After dinner we re-entered on the plain, which is ſurrounded by hills crowned with olives. We found the road indeed very animated, for it was full of monks and women travelling upon mules, carts drawn by oxen, and numerous troops of borricos. Our way traverſed a vaſt extent of uncultivated heaths, that might eaſily have been converted into fertile fields, till at length we arrived at a farm half a league from Burgos, where we determined to paſs the night on account of the excellent forage it affords. On entering the kitchen our attention was attracted by two perſons who ſat by the fireſide. One was a tall thin man with a very flat face and his hair in curls, the other was fat, had a noble and intelligent appearance, was dreſſed as a pilgrim,

with a crucifix hung to his neck, a chaplet for a girdle, and almoſt bald. The firſt had ſomething of meanneſs and of pride in his air, as may often be obſerved in ill-educated people who would give themſelves airs, he had his hat on, and puffed the ſmoke of his pipe to a great diſtance with much gravity and ſpitting proudly upon the coals. The other was uncovered, and, crouching in a diſtant corner of the chimney, was modeſtly eating a morſel of dry bread, to which he added a ſmall pitcher of wine that was brought him. I ſoon recognized the former by his queſtions and pronunciation to be a french eccleſiaſtic, and perceived the other to be a man of rank, whoſe head was turned by devotion.

The french prieſt at firſt offered to retire, taking us for republican merchants; but being undeceived by our muleteer, he addreſſed us in French. According to him the allied powers muſt ſpeedily enter France and cut to pieces at leaſt 8,000,000 of republicans in order to reſtore the emigrant prieſts to their benefices. It is really ſhocking to obſerve to what extremes egotiſm and the rage of party will carry the paſſions of mankind. One would almoſt imagine cruelty were eſſential to our exiſtence, or a natural inſtinct that burſts forth as ſoon as occaſion and circumſtance give it an opportunity to expand.

This

This morning we arrived at Burgos, and we ſhall not leave it till after dinner; but as you will find an account of every thing it contains worthy of notice in books of travels, I ſhall be ſilent on that head. If a man wiſhes however to become acquainted with the inhabitants of Old Caſtile, he muſt obſerve them at Burgos; for no where can he find ſo many ill dreſſed people or ſo many beggars in the ſtreets. Hence notwithſtanding its extent, the place has a dull and inanimate appearance. The royal hoſpital is reckoned very rich; I have been told that on Good Friday alone it diſtributes to the poor as much as 1500 dreſden buſhels of wheat in ſmall loaves. The other churches as well as the monaſteries diſtribute the like largeſſes, and thereby afford daily encouragement to idleneſs and beggary. It ſhould ſeem that all the inſtitutions which do not purſue the ſpirit of the age become pernicious. Burgos is on all ſides ſo much expoſed to the north wind, that the greateſt ſummer heats are always moderate, but on the other hand the winters are the more ſevere. Indeed we have now an autumnal air, which reminds me of Germany, and our diſtance from the temperate ſea coaſt becomes daily more and more ſenſible,

LETTER XXVII.

Road to Lerma.—A Mule falls ſick.—Exorciſms and Holy Water.—Road to Aranda.—A Girl without Arms.—Aranda.—Dragoons.—Scene at an Inn.—The Maſs.—Boſſequillas.—Picture of Miſery.—Venta of San Lorenzo.—Road over the Somoſierra.—Noble Gorda.—Buytrago.—A Catalonian Inn.—San-Agoſtin.—Difference of New and Old Caſtile.—Road to San-Sebaſtian.—Firſt View of Madrid.—Approach to Madrid.—Deſcription of the People ſeen on the Road.—Cuſtom-Houſe Officers.

Madrid, October 1797.

BEFORE I ſpeak of this capital, I muſt tell you how I came here.

Fifth day.—The camino real (royal or high road) that brought us ſo commodiouſly to Burgos terminating ſuddenly on our approach to that city, we entered upon a rugged ſtony mountainous path, and preſently perceived Burgos at a diſtance below us. The ſoil appeared ill cultivated, though here and there we ſaw ſome wood and a few vineyards. We met tolerably fine flocks of ſheep, but throughout our day's journey of ſix ſpaniſh leagues we ſaw no habitations except two ventas for changing horſes.

Toward evening we beheld from a height the ſmall town of Lerma very near a river and ſurrounded with trees. From the right ſide a belt of wood

wood extended to the left, and we saw the mountains of Guadarrama gilded by the rays of the departing sun. We found the inn extremely dirty, but our beds were in a tolerably clean apartment. They brought us bread and wine equally bad, and a few sausages stuffed with pepper. All the women wear brown petticoats trimmed with broad green furbelows, black stockings, and red stays. Throughout the town there is not a single pane of glass, except in the church and parsonage.

The next morning, when on the point of setting off, it appeared that my mule had not eaten and was sick. Immediately there was a long consultation among all the arrieros that were about to load their beasts, and most of them were of opinion we must give him rest; but the whole day passed without his recovering. He was washed with hot wine, a dose of physic administered, and a plaster applied; but all without effect. What could be the reason of all this? Nothing more simple; the animal was bewitched.

To break the charm therefore a quantity of images of saints of all kinds, chaplets, and a large tub of holy water were brought, the animal was dragged under a gateway, his head placed toward the church, he was loaded with images and rosaries, while a toothless old woman muttering a whole litany of ave-marias attempted to exorcise him

him, and they concluded by inundating him with holy water from head to foot. Four hours after the animal began to eat, and the next day was perfectly well. You will eaſily imagine, that without raſhly deſpiſing this ſacred bath I might at leaſt, according to the religion I was brought up in, admit ſome doubts. It therefore appeared to me from certain ſymptoms that the mule had a ſtrangury, and that ſince cold is uſeful in that diſorder, the water that was thrown over him might poſſibly accelerate his cure.

Sixth day.—Between Lerma and Aranda, which terminated this day's journey, being a diſtance of ſix ſpaniſh leagues and a half, we traverſed a fine plain partly planted with vines. At noon we ſtopped at a wine-houſe, where we found a girl without arms, who turned the ſpit with her feet and made wooden ſpoons. After dinner we met a crowd of arrieros, who, as they went along, amuſed themſelves by ſtriving who ſhould throw ſtones fartheſt, as they had before been diſputing who ſhould drink moſt. The environs of Aranda are cultivated in a ſuperior ſtyle. We entered that town by a fine avenue of poplars. It is a conſiderable place, and now belongs to the Prince of Peace. The poſada was full of dragoons who had been there ſome days. The people of the houſe and the muleteers treated them with great reſpect, and never addreſſed them but as *Señores ſoldados*

or

or gentlemen ſoldiers, though they are uſually called ſimply *militar*. Their converſation principally turned upon the campaign they had been making in Rouſſillon. It was an amuſement to hear their rodomontades, as for inſtance, "Do you ſee this ſabre? it has ſpitted at leaſt half a dozen Frenchmen." This was one of the moſt moderate.

After ſupper they danced the fandango before the door, and the ſound of the tambourin drew together a crowd of young women. Meanwhile a number of ſpectators got on the top of the cheſt in which was kept the barley for the mules (for in Spain little or no oats are grown), in conſequence of which the top was forced in. Upon this the landlady was ſo enraged that ſhe ſallied forth with a firebrand in her hand againſt the offenders. At length ſhe was appeaſed, but in all my life I never heard ſuch a volley of threats and of abuſe.

The next day being a holiday, it was neceſſary to hear maſs at the franciſcan monaſtery. The church was loaded with magnificent ornaments, but it exhaled an inſupportable cadaverous ſmell. The women knelt on ſheep-ſkins, and wore white veils over their grey gowns; the men were dreſſed neater than at other places, many had hats, and we ſaw very few ragged cloaks. This ſhowed ſome degree of affluence, and I learned that Aranda boaſts ſome tanneries and ſeveral woollen manufactories.

Seventh

Seventh day.—The nearer we came to the mountains, the worſe the weather proved. At night we felt a very piercing cold, and yet at noon the heat of the ſun was inſupportable. This day did not afford us any pleaſing or intereſting ſcenery, the road was bad and incommodious, and the two villages we paſſed dull and miſerable, particularly Boſſequillas where we ſlept.

As we entered the kitchen, which in Spain is the place of general aſſemblage, we ſaw nothing but objects of miſery. Near the fire ſtood a truckle-bed, where on a ſtratum of maize-leaves lay two children with the ſmall-pox covered with a ſheep-ſkin; on the other ſide was a woman who had recently lain-in, whoſe child had alſo the ſmall-pox, and another child who was recovering from the ſame diſorder which had deprived it of one eye. The father, who was preparing the dinner with the aſſiſtance of his youngeſt daughter, had diſlocated his arm, and to complete all, there ſeemed the moſt extreme indigence and an abſolute want of proviſions and of reſources. Thus there was no comfort or cleanlineſs to be expected in this hoſpital of invalids, where the patients had no other food but a decoction of mallows and a little oxymel.

Our unfortunate landlord did all he could with one arm. His good-nature and civility did not relax for a moment, and he ſeemed to have an elevation

elevation of mind, that intereſted me in a ſingular manner in his favor.

Eighth day.—The next morning we ſaw before us to the northward the mountains of Guadarrama with their ſnowclad ſummits; and after three hours and a half riding we arrived at the foot of that chain at an inn called Venta de San-Lorenzo, where the ſnow lay a foot deep. It was toward the ſouth, but the ſun had very little power, and every thing was covered with icicles. This part of the Guadarrama mountains is called la Somoſierra.

The higher we aſcended, the more piercing was the cold, and the road was almoſt entirely covered with ſnow. The frozen ſides of theſe inacceſſible rocks, precipices ſkirted with pines, fields of dazzling ſnow, and the ſolemn ſilence of the ſcene, all recalled the Alps to my mind, eſpecially the neighbourhood of Saint Gothard. At length after two hours and a half we arrived at the ſteep village of Noble Gorda, which ſtands on the peak of the mountain, and where during nine months in the year a ſiberian winter prevails. The inhabitants carry on ſome trade, and among other articles deal in ſwine and wood, by which they procure a ſubſiſtence.

The road that leads to Somoſierra is one of the moſt magnificent in all Spain. It was begun by Ferdinand VI. and finiſhed under Charles III. We

deſcended

deſcended pretty rapidly, found the air below ſenſibly milder, and after two full hours arrived at the ſmall town of Buytrago, which by its ancient towers and walls is eaſily perceived to have been a fortreſs.

The pleaſure of having overcome difficulties and the exerciſe of our own powers conſtitutes one of the delights of travelling, eſpecially in a mountainous country, where the nature of the country is continually renewing this gratification. Full of ſuch ſentiments we entered the poſada, which we were agreeably ſurpriſed to find was kept by Catalonians, who had brought thither the induſtry, cleanlineſs, and gaiety of their countrymen. Their phyſiognomy, their complexion, their coſtume, and their furniture, all bore teſtimony in their favor.

Among a crowd of travellers, that arrived from Madrid, was a ſurgeon who had juſt paſſed his examination, and, having been admitted, was going to take poſſeſſion of a buſineſs in a ſmall town. He was a young man, had ſtudied according to the *new plan*, and ſeemed to have particularly formed his ideas from the writings of our Plenck. I parted from him with regret the next morning, having conceived a great deal of eſteem for him.

Ninth day.—Our road, which was ſix ſpaniſh leagues, traverſed well cultivated fields, and paſſed through ſome villages as far as San-Agoſtin, which was our laſt ſleeping place before we arrived at Madrid.

Madrid. It was impoſſible not to perceive, we were now in New Caſtile and approached the metropolis. We found more cleanlineſs and affluence, the furniture and accommodations improved, the language and manners of the inhabitants ſhowed more cultivation, the proviſions were better, and nothing was talked of but the laſt news from Madrid. We ſet off the next morning about five o'clock to complete the remaining ſix ſhort leagues of our journey.

Tenth day.—I found the road worſe and more uneven than I expected, and we were obliged to paſs many very ſteep hills. The ſcenery however was that of perfect cultivation, and the diſtance crowned with foreſts. Thus we arrived at San Sebaſtian, three leagues from Madrid, and had there a kind of foretaſte of the capital in well-built houſes and lofty latticed windows. Here for the firſt time the dinner was ſerved by portions, and french rolls and liqueur-wines (vinos generoſos) could be had.

We were ſtill almoſt two leagues from Madrid, when from a height we perceived that city with its innumerable towers. The nearer we approached, the more did the various objects unfold and the new palace in particular appeared in view. The whole country was well cultivated, and the new corn was ſpringing up in all its glory. We entered

upon a very fine road, which at every ſtep became more intereſting and more animated.

Here we ſaw a multitude of women going to market on ſmall donkeys with their blue petticoats turned over their heads like veils, there men in black jackets without ſleeves, with green nets round their heads and brown cloaks, were riding two by two on one mule; dragoons making their horſes prance, one-horſe-chaiſes full of women, officers in poſt chaiſes, long trains of mules loaded with baggage, and troops of unloaded borricos croſſed each other in all directions. Yet neither avenues of trees, nor gardens, nor ſuburbs, announced the neighbourhood of Madrid. Every thing except a tolerable large farm is abſolute nakedneſs around this metropolis.

When we arrived at the poſt of Fuencarral, the name of which is written over the gate in a ſquare of porcelain, we were obliged to ſtop to be examined, which is done with great rigour, eſpecially as to ſnuff. Before our turn came we ſaw above thirty panniers inſpected, which is done in a very ſingular manner. The cuſtom-houſe officers, being furniſhed with a long bar of iron channelled out and rubbed with greaſe, paſs it in every direction into the panniers, where, if it meets with ſnuff, ſome will adhere to the greaſe. We were diſpatched more quickly, becauſe we had had our portmanteaus

portmanteaus ſealed, and our paſſports did not deſcribe us to be merchants. I was ſurpriſed to find a few paces from this poſt in the middle of the road a heap of dirt, upon which lay a dead carcaſs; but preſently a broad road between lofty houſes with an infinity of balconies, churches, and convents engaged my whole attention.

LETTER XXVIII.

Situation of Madrid.—Its Diviſions and Population.—Its Architecture, Streets, and Squares.—Deſcription of a Street crowded with People.—The Square called la Puerta del Sol.—Poſting Bills.— Pedlars, Huckſters, &c. — Diverſified Multitude.— Noon and Afternoon.—Girls.—Criers.—Evening.—Detached Scenes.

Madrid.

MADRID is ſituated in the centre of Spain and on all ſides almoſt equally diſtant from the ſea. It ſtands higher than any other town, on an unequal plain, at ſome diſtance from the river Manzanares. It preſents three principal views, the one toward the road to San Sebaſtian, a ſecond from the heights before the gate of Alcalà, and the third from a hill before the port of Segovia. They have all different characters, but the laſt appears to me the fineſt. It is from thence, that the city is ſeen in its greateſt extent; to the eaſtward the gardens of the Retiro, the Prado, and the other plantations on the bank of the river, to the weſtward the new palace, the rows of trees along the river, and ſome country-houſes. The eye then purſues the courſe of the Manzanares with its bridges and canals, and in the diſtance

diſtance appear the lofty mountains of Guadarrama covered with ſnow.

Madrid forms an irregular ſquare, of which two ſides look toward the river, and the other two to the country. The town is ſurrounded by a wall of no great thickneſs, but tolerably high, and built of mud. It is eaſy to walk round it in three hours and a half. A line drawn from the *Puerta de Fuencarral* to that of *Toledo* divides the city in two parts lengthways, and the diſtance is an hour and a quarter. Another line drawn from the *Puerta de Alcalà* to that of *Segovia* divides the city tranſverſely, and is a walk of nearly three quarters of an hour. According to the laſt accounts by Lopez, in his *Geografia moderna*, the number of inhabitants, excepting the garriſon, the hoſpitals, and children, amounts to 130,980 occupying 7100 houſes, and it contains 77 churches 44 monaſteries and 31 convents. Moſt of the churches and monaſteries are not detached buildings, but adjoining to other edifices.

The old houſes are almoſt all of wood, but the new ones of granite, which is brought from a diſtance of ſixteen or eighteen leagues. The old houſes rarely exceed four ſtories, but the new have five or ſix. The former are decorated with paintings repreſenting bull-fights, dancers, &c. in which the ancient coſtume is diſplayed. The others are quite ſimple, and almoſt all painted yellow. The

old windows are high and narrow, the balconies ſmall, the frontiſpieces projecting, but the new are quite the contrary, they are all in the Italian ſtyle, but there is no ſcarcity of images of ſaints, crucifixes, and madonnas.

This mixture of old and new buildings is particularly ſtriking in places remarkable for their magnificence or deformity: thus for inſtance in the ſtreet of *Alcalà*, or near the cuſtom-houſe, which is a ſuperb edifice, you find an old mean building, and oppoſite to it awkward unſightly erections; and in the ſtreet called *Strada de la Concepcion* are ſeveral magnificent edifices by the ſide of others, that reſemble old barracks. The ſtreet of *Alcalà*, the *Red de San Luis*, the ſtreet of *San-Hieronimo* are undeniably the fineſt and moſt animated, but they are disfigured by many old buildings; the ſtreets of *Toledo*, *Segovia*, and the *Calle-mayor* with its low arcades conſiſt in great meaſure of old and diſpleaſing buildings, though here and there we find a few new and tolerably regular edifices. In the firſt of theſe ſtreets are even ſome waſte ſpots. The celebrated ſquare of *Puerta del Sol* is decorated on one ſide by the great and magnificent building of the poſt-office called *el Correo*, but the two others are full of diſguſting old houſes, two of which were till lately ſhored up, though they are at laſt pulled down; and as for the *Plaza mayor*, deſcriptions of which are everywhere to be found, to admire it

we muſt forget the fine ſquares of other capitals. But all compariſons apart, a ſquare cloſed on all ſides, and deſtitute of every proſpect, does not appear to me calculated to embelliſh a great city. However, as I am not giving you a topographical deſcription of Madrid, I ſhall refer you to the map ſold here by every printſeller, and to which the following work ſerves as a key; "Madrid a la viſta, o deſcripcion general compendioſa que mueſtra quantos tiemplos, fundaciones religioſas, quarteles, barrios, manzanas, calles, caſas, edificios, tiendas, y operarios contiene, arreglado el dia 10 de Dixiembre de 1797." This map is ſuperior to the copy of it in Bourgoanne on account of the names that have been added, as well as of its neater execution; and the work, which is cloſely printed, contains the moſt modern accounts, more particularly thoſe of Ponz in his travels, and of Lopez in his deſcription of the province of Madrid.

Let us now take a view of one of the moſt animated ſtreets, as for inſtance the Red de San-Luis. What a varied crowd! what a confuſion of ſounds! Women in black and veiled, men in long cloaks, water-carriers, fruit-ſellers, magnificent equipages, duſty diligences, light caleſas, waggons drawn by mules and groaning under an enormous weight, a multitude of aſſes with their pack-ſaddles and bells, and herds of goats, with peaſants going from door to door to milk them.

Further on blind muſicians ſinging their tornadillas or popular ſongs, and alguazils crying the orders of police, a crowd of gallegos or porters, proceſſions of chaplets, guards following the drum, or confraternities eſcorting a funeral and ſinging pſalms, the tinkling of bells at all the neighbouring churches, and laſtly the ſolemn proceſſion of the *venerabile* or hoſt, when the bells of the children of the choir being heard, every one kneels down, all tongues are ſilent, and all hats off, all the carriages ſtop, and the tumultuous maſs ſeems inſtantaneouſly petrified; but two minutes are ſcarcely elapſed before the accuſtomed clangor is renewed.

In the centre of Madrid, a ſpot which is uſed as a place of aſſemblage by all the inhabitants, and as a general rendezvous by all perſons of buſineſs, is the ſquare I have already mentioned, called *La Puerta del Sol* (or Sun-gate), in which the moſt frequented ſtreets terminate, as the Red de San-Luis, the Calle-mayor, and that of San-Hieronimo.

The public ſquares are uſed throughout Spain as promenades and places of aſſemblage. The ſmall towns and even the villages are not without ſuch an open ſpace, which is generally in front of the church. It is there the Spaniards recreate themſelves after their labours, or enjoy the warmth of the ſun in winter, and even thoſe who ſcarcely ever quit the town regularly reſort there. From

this

this you may eaſily conceive the appearance of ſuch a ſpot in the centre of the metropolis.

It has ſtruck eleven, and a troop of officers of the guard with brilliant accoutrements, monks in black cloaks, charming women in veils embroidered with gold holding the arms of their *cortejos*, and a party-coloured crowd of all kinds wrapped up in their cloaks, pour from every ſtreet to read the advertiſements and poſting-bills (noticias ſueltas): "To-day there will be a ſermon and muſic at the Franciſcans; there will be an opera and ſuch and ſuch plays: to-morrow there will be a bull-fight, or the novena of San Felipo commences: Loſt yeſterday at the prado a little girl, and this morning a chaplet: Stolen three days ago ſuch and ſuch a jewel; if it has been taken through want, and if the thief will reſtore it by his confeſſor, he ſhall receive a handſome reward: The day after to-morrow will be ſold by auction a large crucifix, an image of the Madona, and a nacimiento (or caſe containing the infant Jeſus with the two other perſons of the trinity in wood, plaſter, &c.) This evening the proceſſion of the roſary will ſet out about eight o'clock."

Meanwhile the ſquare is conſtantly filling, ſo that it becomes very difficult to paſs. Here are criers of journals ſtunning the paſſengers with their noiſe, people reading the gazette for a quarto (a farthing), walloon and ſwiſs guards offering goods

goods for ſale, hackney-coaches plying for fares, old clotheſmen, coblers, ſharpers, ſellers of images and cigars, and huckſters of all kinds tormenting the paſſengers; there a numerous circle crowd round an ingenious memorialiſta or notary, a very profitable occupation and abounding in every ſtreet, for nothing is to be obtained by verbal applications even to a paſſport, for which a *memorialito* muſt paſs through an infinity of offices; and there a loto with a dial to be pulled, next him a juggler with dancing monkeys, and farther on goods ſelling by auction; women ogling the paſſengers alſo mingle in the crowd, while capuchins with long beards parade with gravity and ſolemnity. Here you are attacked by a couple of ballad-ſingers, and there annoyed by an importunate beggar; to all which is added the noiſe of carriages and caleſas, and of the neighbouring fountain re-echoing with the loud hallooing voices of the water-carriers.

This place is far more noiſy ſtill on Sundays and holidays, when crowds of people are flocking to the neighbouring churches. It is the faſhion to paſs theſe days in the ſquare, and many a fair who has miſſed her lover at church is ſure to find him here. The groups then crowd upon each other to the very gates of the church, and every one appears in his beſt apparel.

But

But it ſtrikes *one*, and the crowd diſappears; the porters range themſelves near the houſes to ſleep the ſieſta or eat their dinner; all the ſhops are ſhut, at the corners of the ſtreets the huckſters cover their ſtalls and ſtretch themſelves beſide them on the pavement, the place is cleared, the moſt noiſy ſtreets are quite deſerted and dead, and a ſolitary paſſenger is rarely ſeen. But no ſooner do the bells ring for veſpers, than all is life again, and at four o'clock the place is crowded anew.

At this time ladies of eaſy acceſs iſſue forth from their retreats, ſpreading on all ſides, and no modeſt woman dares be ſeen abroad without her cortejo or her duenna and frequently both. The former is the ſame as a ciciſbeo, of whom I ſhall ſpeak hereafter. The latter was formerly a ſevere governeſs or guardian of the wife paid by the huſband, and frequently choſen from among his relations, but now a mere lady's maid. The women I was ſpeaking of however are free from this ſlavery. Their light and bold walk, their ſhort and fluttering petticoats, of which the long and tranſparent fringe expoſes to view at every ſtep a delicate and beautiful leg, thoſe enticing veils which rather diſplay than conceal their charms, their large noſegays, and the coquettiſh play of their fans, characterize theſe dangerous

ſyrens,

ſyrens. A word or a look, however curſory, ſuffice to produce an aſſignation, which is afterwards ſettled more at leiſure in ſome neighbouring ſtreet.

The firſt-rate demireps, who ſtill keep up external appearances, generally take with them a little girl eight or ten years old, who ſerves as their duenna, and, proud of their charms, they wait till due homage is paid them. Thoſe of the ſecond claſs, who go alone, uſe leſs reſerve; they ſmile with grace, and employ the moſt ſeducing allurements they poſſeſs.

At this time come the venders of cool water (*aguadores*) crying "Agua freſca! agua freſquita! quien beve? quien quiere? Aora viene de la fuente!" "Cool water, nice cool water! Who drinks? who wants any water, juſt freſh from the fountain?" Theſe men carry on their ſhoulders a large ſtone pitcher faſtened on with leather thongs, and keep goblets in tin veſſels to drink out of: it is ſold at a farthing the glaſs. Alſo orange-girls (*naranjeras*) crying "Naranjas, naranjas! dos por tres quartos! por tres quartos dos!" "Oranges, oranges! two for three farthings, for three farthings two!" The flower-girls (*roſeras*) "Tome vm̃! tome vm̃! ſeñorito, ſeñorita! tres por un quarto! que hermoſas! que ricas! el manojo un quarto! que hermoſas yo las tengo." "Take

ſome,

ſome, take ſome, dear ſir! dear madam! three for a farthing! how beautiful! how rich! a farthing a handful! how beautiful they are!" The chaiſe-drivers (*caleſeros*) "Un caleſin, ſeñor? quantos aſſientos? tome vm̃. que caleſin y que caballo yo tengo! vamos ſeñor! una buelta al canal o adonde vm̃ quiera." "A chaiſe, ſir! how many ſeats? come, ſir! what a chaiſe, and what a horſe are mine! come, ſir, a turn to the canal, or wherever you pleaſe." The news-venders "Gazeta nova, gazeta nova! No tengo mas que media dozena. Quien quiere la ultima gazeta? Tome vm̃ la ultima que tengo." "The new gazette, the new gazette! I have only half a dozen left. Who will have the laſt gazette? Take it, ſir, the laſt I have." And laſtly the beggars "Señor, una limoſina! por Maria ſantiſſima! una limoſina a eſte pobrecito, que no puede ganar! una limoſina por los dolores de Maria ſantiſſima!" "Sir, your charity, for the love of the holy virgin! your charity to a poor man that cannot work! your charity, by the pains of the holy virgin!" Then by degrees the various equipages go to the theatres or the Prado, and on all ſides company in chariots, on mules, and on borricos. At length it is twilight, the bells ring for the angelus, the lamps are lighted before the madonas and in the houſes, while the wine-ſellers and lemonade-ſellers light up their

their ſhops, and everywhere are ſeen little tables with french rolls and paper lanterns. "Que ricos! que tiernecitos! que blanditos!" "How rich! how freſh! how ſoft!" The noiſe of the paſſengers, the rumbling of carriages increaſes every moment, and the whole ſquare is full of people. Here guitars and voleros are heard, there a ballad-ſinger ſinging the laſt new ballad and ſtories of men hanged, then a vigorous copper-coloured miſſionary preaching to a penitent populace, while his audience are appointing aſſignations.

A third claſs of courtezans are now in full diſplay, all having now left their hovels and garrets; and having fortified their courage in ſome tippling houſe (botelleria), they advance in high ſpirits into the ſquare. "Ah hijo de mi alma!" exclaim they, throwing their arms round the neck of the firſt man they meet, and covering his mouth with kiſſes, "Como va? como te hallas, querido? Quieres ver mi quartito? Saves que tengo una camita? No ſe ha viſto camita ſemejante!" To which they add geſtures that would make you bluſh even in the dark. And yet theſe women are frequently not deſtitute of wit and talents, and often have their heads full of verſes which they recite. Theſe ſcenes take place at the corner of the poſt-

houſe

houſe (*el correo*) and of the Red de San-Luis, till the proceſſion of the roſary with its lanterns, or the guard from the corps-de-garde, diſperſes them for a few moments.

LETTER XXIX.

Promenades of Madrid.—The Prado.—Its firſt Appearance.—Irrigation.—Equipages.—Contraſts.—Deſcription of the Promenade in Carriages.—Animated Appearance of the Multitude.—The Angelus.—The Evening.—Walks at Buen Retiro.—Paſſeo de las Delicias.—Other Promenades on the weſt Side of the City.—Environs in general.

Madrid.

LET us now take a view of the promenades of Madrid. We will begin by the moſt celebrated, namely the Prado (pronounce Pra-o).

The Prado is a walk about three quarters of an hour long and is ſituated almoſt at the extremity of the town, which it interſects from the gate of the Recoletos to that of Atocha. The walks here are likewiſe interſected by the ſtreet of San Hieronimo, that of the Jardin Botanico, and that of Atocha. Its entrance and firſt diviſion from the Puerta de Recoletos as far as the ſtreet of Alcala is narrow, having only one avenue of trees running along beſide the great ſtreet, and at the extremity is a ſuperb fountain, whither people rarely go. The ſecond part, from the ſtreet of Alcala to that of San Hieronimo, has in the middle a broad avenue that follows the road furniſhed with

with benches and adorned with an antique fountain. The third part from the ſtreet of San-Hieronimo to that of the jardin botanico is narrower, and has only two avenues on the ſides which incloſe the road between them and a fountain at each end. The fourth part from the ſtreet of the jardin botanico to that of Atocha purſues the ſame line along the foſſe, and at the end is another fountain. Independently of the principal entry which interſects the whole Prado there is another on the right ſide, both lined with houſes and gardens.

The firſt appearance of the Prado beginning from the calle de Alcalà is very grand; the breadth of the ſtreet, the palaces, the monaſteries with their terraces, and the other edifices, all of fine architecture, the view of the magnificent gate to which one of the avenues leads, the four rows of large tufted trees, and the ſuperb fountains of marble, all theſe objects produce a very ſtriking effect. The ſame may be ſaid of the view from the ſtreet of San-Hieronimo, which preſents at its entrance a palace, a magnificent hoſpital, and two ſuperb monaſteries, and in front the royal reſidence of Buen Retiro. The third point of view from the ſtreet of the jardin botanico is more confined, and has nothing in it remarkable. That from the calle de Atocha is extremely animated, and the eye plunges into a long avenue extending as far as the monaſtery of San-Thomas.

The embelliſhment of the Prado, as is well known, was the work of the Conde de Aranda. The ſoil oppoſed the greateſt obſtacles to ſuch plantations, but theſe have been overcome by means of an artificial irrigation, effected at a very conſiderable expenſe. For this purpoſe ſmall canals a foot in breadth and depth have been cut among the trees, and are every day ſupplied from the fountains. Round each tree is a ſmall circular foſſe, in which the water is retained, till it mounts high enough to run off into the next canal. Thus the trees, which are moſtly elms and cheſnuts, continually preſerve their verdure.

The clock ſtrikes four and the ſieſta is paſt. The walks of the Prado are watered, the venders of ſweetmeats and oranges appear, the chaiſe-drivers arrange their caleſas, the walkers are diſperſed up and down the avenues, coaches paſs to occupy the middle road and gradually become numerous, the dragoons appointed to keep order arrive at their poſt, the files of carriages begin to form, growing longer and longer every moment, and preſently hundreds of them begin to move gently along, while the middle is filled with gentlemen on horſeback.

Nothing can be more intereſting than this ſight is rendered by the novelty of the ſcene. It is here, that equipages of all kinds are diſplayed in the moſt ancient and moſt modern taſtes, from the chariot of parade to the moſt miſerable fiacre. This forms

a moſt

a moſt ſingular contraſt both in individuals and in the general appearance of the whole. Here we ſee an elegant vis-a-vis drawn by a pair of decrepit mules with halters on their heads and harneſſed with cords, there fine courſers with engliſh acoutrements drawing a heavy gothic coach, a troop of powdered lacqueys and a dirty coachman in a grey cloak, the moſt ridiculous aſſemblage of colours in the liveries, and the ſtrangeſt paintings and groteſque ſhapes together with a profuſion of vulgar gilding and other ornaments; in ſhort a barbarous mixture of every thing the moſt diſcordant. I will venture to aſſert, that among near two hundred carriages, that paſſed in review before us, we did not obſerve ten that were tolerable, or ſuch as may be ſeen in the great capitals of Germany, as for inſtance at Berlin, and above all, there were not twenty drawn by horſes, mules being generally preferred, becauſe they bear fatigue better. In addition to this there is ſuſpended behind each carriage a ſmall painted foot-ſtool to be placed under the ſtep when the company chooſe to get out.

The appearance of the company within is no leſs intereſting. They are indeed very completely ſeen, becauſe the ſide pannels are taken out or formed of glaſs. The veil, the *baſquiña* petticoat, and in a word the whole ſpaniſh coſtume have now diſappeared; the ladies vie with each other in the faſhion and

adjuſtment of their dreſs, they are all transformed into Greeks, and the nudities for which the climate is an excuſe are authoriſed by the examples of their models.

What vivacity! what art! what a ſtruggle to attract attention, to bow to one another, to be obſerved, and to make mutual ſigns! Young girls with their duennas, belles with their cortejos, old dukes with their confeſſors, nurſes with their children, prieſts with pampered faces, officers full of impudence, old mummies of ducheſſes, and young children playing! But how ſhall I pourtray a moving picture, that changes every moment? Here are lacqueys running to perform their maſters' orders, company on foot going up to the carriages to ſay ſweet things to the ladies, ſome carriages quitting the rank, and replaced by others; there a reſtive mule diſturbing the whole train, the dragoons prancing on all ſides, people on horſeback croſſing, beggars and fruit-ſellers following the carriages, and no object remaining a ſingle moment in the ſame poſture.

The ſeats, which extend from the botanic garden to the other end of the Prado, are all occupied by the particoloured crowd of ſpectators, as well as the chairs in the principal avenue, which ſwarms with people walking. The lateral avenues of Buen Retiro, and the green ſward at the upper end are equally full. The water-carriers go crying out along

along the middle of the avenues, the patroles ſilently walk along them. The people on foot return gaily from the promenade, the whole Prado reſounds with a kind of buzzing murmur, and if the veils of the women and the men's cloaks admitted of more variety, it would be completely charming.

But twilight at length comes on, the bells ring for the angelus, when the whole company become as fixed as ſtatues, and every carriage ſtops. The prayer being finiſhed, they again begin to move, and carriages obſtruct every ſtreet. At this hour the tertullas commence, and the Prado begins to be more tranquil; but this voluptuous obſcurity, the magic play of the moon's ſhadows, the balmy odours of the botanic garden, and the harmonious ſounds of guitars ſtill detain the foreigner, till the deepening ſhades and a univerſal calm induce him to retire.

There is another promenade in the neighbourhood of the Prado, the garden of Retiro, that vaſt but unintereſting palace, ſo well known to all the world. Although this garden daily falls off, yet it ſtill retains ſome charms. Its elevated ſituation, which commands a part of the Prado, the town, and neighbouring country, its pure and refreſhing air, its fine avenues of trees and pleaſing groves, a large ſheet of water, and ſeveral ſmaller baſins, the

ſhady mall, and a ſuperb menagerie of foreign animals, the great porcelain manufactory, and the artificers' dwellings every night attract a great deal of company, who ſometimes crowd each other much in the walks along the waterſide and the great mall.

It is the firſt claſs that principally frequents this garden, becauſe an entire freedom in dreſs prevails there, and more particularly becauſe the women are obliged, by an ancient order of Count Aranda which is rigorouſly obſerved, to unveil on entering. Hence the faſhions and changes of dreſs may here be viewed at once. As to the men, they are alſo ſubject to a particular law, which however is by no means oppreſſive, that of taking off their hats for a few moments when they enter the garden, which the ſentinels are ſo attentive to enforce, that to every ſtranger who is ignorant of this uſage they call out, "Señor a la entrada ſe quita el ſombrero". "On entering here, ſir, you muſt take off your hat."

There is a third promenade, formed by the avenues of trees, extending from the gate of Atocha to the Manzanares, called El paſſeo de las delicias, one of which leads directly by the bridge over the canal to the river; the other turns off to the right, croſſes the fields, and again joins the former near the canal. The trees, which are well kept up, are lofty

lofty and tufted, and the place commands a view of a rich and verdant plain watered by an infinity of ſmall foſſes.

Both perſons of faſhion and the common people frequent this promenade, the former before they go in their carriages to the Prado, the latter on Sundays. The principal object is to breathe a cooler and purer air. Hence carriages are always ſeen waiting, while the company are walking in the great meadow that runs along the Manzanares. This laſt promenade is crowded, eſpecially on Sundays, with perſons of every deſcription, who paſs the afternoon in dancing, eating, and playing at pelota, and other games.

There is another very agreeable avenue, before you arrive at the gate of Atocha, turning to the left at the end of the Prado: it leads to a carthuſian monaſtery. But this walk is rather ſolitary, and it is only when the number of carriages at the Prado is very great, that the ranks extend hither, and that but very rarely.

Out of the gate to the left you paſs before ſome very fine gardens, which are full of vegetables, and each watered by a kind of chain pump, and a thick ſhady avenue leads along the edge of the fields to the gate of Alcalà. The ſcenery here is pleaſant and rural, conſiſting of farms, ſheep at paſture, huſbandmen guiding the plough, and the great road, which is full of paſſengers and carriages.

Theſe are the promenades to the eaſtward: I ſhall now deſcribe the weſtern parts out of the gate called la Puerta de Segovia.

Before traverſing the ſuperb bridge, which is worthy of a finer river, the traveller may turn to the right along an avenue of trees leading to the palace of Prado. To the left he will ſee the coppice of the Manzanares, near which upon a height is the new royal palace. However various may be the judgments of architects relative to that as yet unformed maſs, all agree that in this point of view it produces a diſagreeable effect. A dead wall in ruins with a few houſes of no great appearance riſing above it, a mean gate, and a dirty ſandhill, are not the embelliſhments we expect to adorn the approaches to a building intended for the reſidence of the firſt perſonages of the ſtate.

But let us purſue our route, which now leaves the Manzanares. The road is enlivened by fine gardens on both ſides, and the ſcenery is pleaſing and rural. Here and there are chapels, farms, houſes of ruſtic entertainment, and we breathe the pure air from the Guadarrama mountains.

To return home we deſcend into the valley, where a ſmall river runs in various narrow channels. In this part are ſeen ſeveral delightful groves, and on the banks of the different channels an infinity of waſherwomen, each having her ſeparate waſhing place, where they extend their linen in ſummer,

and

and all the neighbourhood is full of huts for waſhing and places for drying clothes. But without ſeeing the ſpot it is impoſſible to form an idea of the tumultuous chattering of ſo many waſherwomen aſſembled together.

The back part of this avenue, which is bounded by ſeveral meadows, ſerves on Sundays as a place of aſſembly and of recreation for the middling claſs who inhabit the weſtern part of the capital, at which times the whole plain is covered with people taking their refreſhments on the turf, playing at pelota or at cards, and dancing boleros.

To the left of the gate of Segovia we ſoon come to a pleaſant road leading to fertile fields and commanding a view of the cultivated hills to the right beyond the Manzanares. This road inſenſibly aſcends, and to the left are ſeen ſome tippling houſes, where the ſoldiers of the ſwiſs regiments are accuſtomed to aſſemble to play at different games. All languages are heard there, but the German is moſt prevalent, and the ſides of the road are ſeldom without ſpectators.

Farther on to the right are a ſtill greater number of rural houſes of entertainment. Thoſe who go there to drink, ſit along the road or under arbours ſhaded with branches of fir, where they gaily pour libations to the god of wine. But preſently the Manzanares and neighbouring banks are again diſcovered, then the magnificent bridge of Toledo,

and

and in the diſtance the vineyard houſes, which join the fartheſt of the waſherwomen's huts. Proceeding ſtill in a ſtraight line we come again to the paſſeo de las delicias, of which I have already given you a deſcription.

By this ſketch you will perceive that moſt of the environs of Madrid are not ſo naked or ſo dreary, as they were perhaps thirty years ago. To the northward and eaſtward alſo are fields moſtly cultivated, and by degrees the inhabitants will level the banks of ſand and of calcareous earth that ſtill remain. When we reflect on the difficulties ariſing from a barren ſoil, a burning climate, and the ſcarcity of water, we cannot ſufficiently applaud the aſſiduity and zeal beſtowed by government on the embelliſhment of the metropolis.

LETTER XXX.

The Climate.—Its Variability.—Its Heat.—Precautions neceſſary.—The Cold during Winter.—Prevalent Diſeaſes.—Phyſicians.—The State of Medicine in general.—Proviſions.—Markets.—Mode of Life of the higher and lower Orders.—Prices of Proviſions.—Bread.—Water.—Water-carriers wholeſale and retail.—Botellerias.—Wine.—Beer.—Coffee-houſes.—Taverns.—Private Houſes.—Price of Boarding.

Madrid.

THE climate of Madrid is peculiarly variable and ſubject to ſudden changes from one extreme to the other. The cold is no leſs ſevere in winter than the heat is oppreſſive in ſummer; nor is it uncommon to ſee the wind in all the four quarters during a ſingle morning. Yet the air is in general very light and very pure. The ſpaniſh phyſicians account for all the peculiarities of the climate from the elevated ſituation of Madrid, its diſtance from the ſea, the vicinity of the mountains, and the vaſt extent of the plains.

The heat, eſpecially during the dog days, is ſo extreme, that we ſeem to be breathing fire, and yet within doors the inhabitants have the art of keeping their houſes cool. They are all fitted up on the outſide with venetian blinds and curtains, and

within with ſhutters; the floors, which are of tile, are continually watered, all the balconies have cloth coverings, and the doors are conſtantly open. The ſpaniſh architects eſtabliſh it as a rule to build the rooms very high and very long, to make few windows, but as many doors as poſſible, and theſe always correſponding with each other. They who have many apartments remove from one to another according to the time of day, but thoſe whoſe circumſtances do not admit of this luxury diſperſe themſelves through the kitchen and paſſages, at the houſe-door, &c. They make no ceremony of throwing off their clothes, yet no one quits his labour. All the other occupations of the day go on as uſual, the great ſquare, the theatre, the Prado, the tertullas, and the tippling houſes are filled as uſual, only the ſieſta is prolonged, people drink more frequently, and ſit up a part of the night. It is only when the ſolano blows, during which the air we breathe ſeems liquid fire, that the ſtreets appear leſs frequented even at other hours than the ſieſta, but after ſunſet the tumult is the more increaſed, and every one comes out into the open air to enjoy the freſco or cool of the evening. It is alſo a rule that houſe-keepers ſhould water the ſtreets night and morning.

The greater the heat of ſummer, the more ſenſible the following winter becomes, although the thermometer rarely ſinks ten degrees below freezing point:

point: but the half-ruined walls, the long and lofty apartments, where not a ſingle window or door ſhuts cloſe, the floors of tile, on which the mats (eſteras) retain very little heat, the want of ſtoves or fire-places, for which the chafing diſhes (braſeros) here in uſe are very bad ſubſtitutes, all theſe circumſtances contribute to increaſe the ſeverity of the cold north winds, which blow from the mountains, cauſing a humid cold, which foreigners find inſupportable.

The climate therefore produces ſeveral epidemical diſorders, of which fevers, eſpecially of the typhus kind, phthiſis, and cholics, are the moſt common. The ſudden changes of the atmoſphere and the ſharp penetrating air, which in ſummer is impregnated with ſandy particles, are the chief proximate cauſes. The cholic (el colico de Madrid) is a very dangerous diſorder, and, as people here aſſert, can only be properly treated by the phyſician of the country. I was not attacked with it, but the ſymptoms as well as the mode of treating it ſeem to indicate, that it depends on the nervous ſyſtem.

There are at Madrid eighteen hoſpitals, the advantages and adminiſtration of which have often been deſcribed at large. But the number of phyſicians has never been ſtated. It amounts according to the royal almanack to 145. It may eaſily be imagined

imagined how many empirics there muſt be in ſuch a multitude. But ever ſince the protomedicado, among the members of which are ſuch men as Don Luis de Ortega, have been more ſtrict in their examinations, an improvement in this branch of civil policy may be expected annually.

Hitherto the preference has always been given to engliſh and german phyſicians. An Iriſhman for inſtance, one O'Scalan, was the firſt that made inoculation known in Spain by his *Pratica moderna de la Inoculation*, and the phyſicians of the various embaſſadors have found equal honour and advantage in the exerciſe of their profeſſion. Meanwhile every decennium ſhows an increaſe of ſkilful phyſicians, and the univerſity of Valencia has the honour of having ſent forth the moſt diſtinguiſhed.

Theſe advances will above all affect the treatment of the venereal. It is not long ſince the practice of foreign countries began to be adopted, and yet it has already become more general, owing to the daily improvement of public inſtruction. Mankind are even indebted to two ſpaniſh botaniſts for the diſcovery of two ſpecifics drawn from the vegetable kingdom, which are now alſo well known in Germany. I mean the agave and the begonia. The work on this ſubject has been tranſlated into German from the Italian, if I am not miſtaken, by one Kreuchauf.

Surgery

Surgery has in like manner experienced the happy effects of the changes that have taken place during the laſt ten years. We read in the public prints accounts of a vaſt number of ſucceſsful operations, the deſcriptions of which ſhow, that the practitioners can appreciate the difficulties they have to encounter, apply the proper remedies, and imitate their maſters the French. One of the moſt ſkilful oculiſts in this metropolis is Doña Victoria Feliz, celebrated for innumerable operations equally difficult and ſucceſsful.

This ſubject naturally leads me to ſay a few words on food and proviſions in general.

The markets of a city and the proviſions brought there conſtitute in many reſpects the meaſure of the luxury that prevails. As in ſmall country towns bread, butcher's meat, fiſh, vegetables, and fruit, are the principal objects of conſumption, ſo in the capital are united all the luxuries of the table, and the productions of all Spain are heaped together in one ſingle ſpot. The market of Madrid is held in the Plaza-mayor, of which I have already ſpoken, and which, if it cannot be compared with that of Covent-Garden in London, is pretty conſiderable for Madrid; the abundance of proviſions of all kinds, ſet out partly under the arcades and partly in the middle of the ſquare, correſponding with the importance of a metropolis. On entering we ſee two large tables hung up, the one containing the prices of fiſh,

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and the other thoſe of other proviſions, arranged according to certain rules. Theſe two tables are renewed from Saturday to Saturday, although the utility of ſuch regulations is ſtill problematical.

Among the lower orders the mode of living is extremely ſimple, and there is very little variation in their food; their diſhes are almoſt every day the ſame. Boiled or roaſt meat, broiled or fried fiſh, dried or freſh vegetables, eggs, and onions, conſtitute their uſual meals, and the lower claſſes at Madrid ſcarcely know any other ſeaſoning than indian pepper. Perſons of higher rank are no leſs faithful to their national diſhes, but they add thereto, by means of french cooks, the refinements of modern luxury. For ſuch diſtinguiſhed tables the Plaza-mayor ſupplies pheaſants from Arragon, freſh *veſugo*-fiſh ſent in ice from Biſcay, pomegranates from Valencia, and water-melons from Andaluſia.

Common proviſions are not very dear. The beef is cow beef, but excellent, (becauſe the beaſt is never uſed for draught, oxen being employed in huſbandry,) and coſts five-pence halfpenny or ſix-pence the pound, beſt bread ſeven farthings the pound, and eggs about ten-pence the dozen; vegetables and lemons are ſometimes ſo cheap, that four people may make a meal for about two-pence. Lemons are a halfpenny each. The cuſtom in Spain is, that the men, not the women, ſhould go

to

to market, nor can the latter be ſo employed, even among the lower orders, without incurring the reproach of bad economy.

At Madrid the bread and the water are excellent. Of the former there are different kinds, the fineſt of which is called *pan candial*, and is baked in pounds and half-pounds, in the ſhape of crowns or ſmall circles, and four-cornered hats: but however white and however agreeable to the palate, it much loads the ſtomach of thoſe who are not accuſtomed to it, becauſe the dough is again kneaded with dry flower to render it whiter. Hence for thoſe who deſire it a ſecond ſort of bread is made called *pan frances* or french bread, which is a medium between the pan candial and french bread properly ſo called, but, which far ſurpaſſes the latter in whiteneſs. Beſides theſe there are three other ſorts to ſupply the demand of the various claſſes of people.

As to the water it comes from the Guadarrama, whence it is brought to Madrid on ſand and gravel. It has all the good qualities of mountain ſprings, but our german pumps and reſervoirs are wholly unknown here, and nothing is uſed but large excavated trees furniſhed with cocks that ſpout into a baſon. Only in a very ſmall number of private houſes pipes are ſeen. The cuſtom of ſending the ſervants for water is not known at Madrid, and

hence ariſes a traffic in water which merits ſome attention.

This ſubordinate commerce is entirely in the hands of the *Gallegos* or Galicians, who act partly as water-carriers and partly as porters, like the Auvergnats at Paris, while the Aſturians are generally coachmen and lacqueys. Theſe gallegos, who ſell water both in large and ſmall quantities, form a ſeparate corporation, which divide the city and its quarters, ſtreets, and houſes among the members, ſo that the walk and cuſtom of each become a property, which he may bequeath to his children or ſell to another gallego, but not to a ſtranger. The occupation of theſe men is very laborious, but at the ſame time ſo advantageous, that moſt of them, after purſuing it for ſome years, return home with conſiderable ſums of money, and ſell their walks for fifty or ſixty piaſtres. They receive from every houſe where they carry a barrel of water daily a piaſtre per month, for two barrels two piaſtres, and ſo on, and each gallego ſupplies ten or twelve houſes. In ſummer therefore they are ſeen at the fountain at all hours of the day, where they often quarrel and come to blows to get their veſſels filled before their neighbours. Theſe aguadores are alſo employed as purveyors, when the occupations of the maſter of the houſe will not permit him to go to market,

market, and if he is not rich enough to keep a man ſervant: nor is any infidelity to be apprehended on their part, all the prices being fixed as I have already ſtated. This corporation pays a tax annually for the maintenance of the pumps.

There is a ſecond claſs of theſe men who ſell water retail, which they cry about the ſtreets, and form no diſtinct corporation. They go about with large pitchers on their head, and every one is free to exerciſe this calling. Thus a poor cobler is contented with working at his trade in the morning, eſpecially in ſummer, and in the afternoon goes about ſelling water. They carry their glaſſes in ſmall tin caſes or in baſkets. The price of a glaſs of water is fixed at half a farthing, and thus during the hot weather they gain eight-pence or ten-pence a day.

The wines uſually drunk at Madrid are thoſe of la Mancha, and eſpecially of Valdepeñas and of Manzanares. The quart, which in la Mancha coſts at moſt three farthings, amounts at Madrid in conſequence of the duties to near two-pence. It is well known that in Spain wine is kept, not in barrels or glaſs bottles, but in leathern veſſels made of goat ſkin and called pellejos, but it often loſes its ſtrength in pouring from one veſſel into another, not to mention the pitchy flavour it always contracts in new leathern bottles, unleſs the greateſt precautions are taken. It is ſold however pure and

unadulterated, that art being as yet unknown to the wine dealers in this country.

Their botellerias or wine-houſes are much frequented, eſpecially by the common people, who never take their wine but by *copas* or quarter pints, thinking thereby to multiply their enjoyments. Even when they make their moſt copious libations, they ſtill adhere to their cuſtom of calling for ſmall quantities, though by the frequent repetition of theſe ſmall meaſures, taking ſometimes as many as twelve copas, the wine-dealer gains a larger profit.

There are both red and white mancha wine, the former of which has a very agreeable aromatic ſmell, a very fine ruby colour, and is very heady. It is ſtill more delicate than burgundy, but its goodneſs eaſily evaporates, and it heats thoſe who are not accuſtomed to it. Nevertheleſs Spaniards, while drinking it, ſmoke their cigars without inconvenience. The white-wine is exactly ſimilar in colour to champagne. It is ſomewhat rough, but not ſo ſtrong, and cheaper than the red. It is ſent in hampers to England and America.

There are alſo at Madrid liqueur-wines (vinos generoſos) at the warehouſes where the finer wines are ſold, and thoſe who would drink pure unmixed malaga, ſherry (xeres), canary, or madeira, will find them there. At other botellerias is alſo found a beer called San Andrew's, which is a feeble imitation

imitation of engliſh porter, at nine-pence a bottle. It is brewed by an Engliſhman who is ſettled at ſome port in the north of Spain, and who turned catholic to obtain this privilege. It is ſaid this ſpeculation has been facilitated by very conſiderable quantities ſent to America. As to the coffee-houſes, or rather coffee-ſhops, there are ſeveral at Madrid, but they ſcarcely deſerve mention. The beſt coffee is drunk at the Golden Fountain (La Fontana de Oro), where at leaſt one gazette may be ſeen, called El Diario de Madrid, and thoſe who are known there can alſo procure a ſight of the London Gazette. The nation in general ſeem to have but little taſte for this ſpecies of aſſembly.

As to good inns there is ſcarcely more than one called the Croſs of Malta (La Cruz de Malta) in the ſtreet of Alcalà, which is deficient in nothing but that it requires more ground. It is alſo the beſt fonda, that is, the moſt famous larder in Madrid. There is a multitude of other poſadas, but people rarely dine there. Almoſt every ſtreet has other ſmall eating-houſes for the lower orders, ſuch as muleteers, huckſters, and ſoldiers. Every one however may find what he wants there; but there are other houſes merely to ſleep at or *hire beds* as the inſcription ſays (Aqui ſe alquila camas), which is written in letters of gold on a large ſign-board. The price of a bad dirty bed without a candle is about a penny per night, but with a can-

dle and clean ſheets four-pence, and ſo on gradually up to eight-pence and a ſhilling.

The living at ſo great an inn as the Cruz de Malta being very dear, perhaps too much ſo for any length of time to ſuit many foreigners, I would adviſe them to lodge in ſome private houſe, innumerable advertiſements of which may be ſeen daily in the Madrid journal under the title of *Un matrimonio buſca un hueſped* (a family wants an inmate), by which means a thouſand opportunities of boarding may be found. In ſuch families they charge for a furniſhed room with an alcove for the bed (ſala con alcova) thirteen or fourteen reals a day, breakfaſt and ſupper included. This plan cannot be too ſtrongly recommended to foreigners who wiſh to become familiar with the language of the country, or the manners and cuſtoms of the middling claſs of inhabitants, beſides procuring at the ſame time innumerable other ſocial advantages. The bare rent ſcarcely amounts to five reals a day.

LETTER XXXI.

The ſpaniſh Ladies.—Their general Character.—Their Phyſiognomy and Figure.—More particular Deſcription of their Character.—Mixture of Religion and Libertiniſm.—Want of Delicacy.—Situation of a Lover.—Their Marriages.—Cortejos.—Their domeſtic Life.—Spirit of Revenge.—Tragic Inſtance of it.—Dreſs.—The Baſquiña and Mantilla.—Their Headdreſs.—Their Stockings and Shoes.

Madrid.

If the men are diſtinguiſhed by their peculiar character, the ſpaniſh women are diſtinguiſhable for the warmth of their conſtitutions. I will give you ſome account of them.

A fanatical enthuſiaſm for the religious ſyſtem of their country, pride that would bend every thing beneath its yoke, a ſingularity that knows no law but its own will, a paſſion for revenge in oppoſition to which nothing is held ſacred, and an unbridled love of pleaſure are by no means an amiable aſſemblage of qualities; yet all theſe are compenſated in the ſpaniſh women by a fidelity and an attachment that nothing can ſhake, by ſtrength of mind and heroiſm carried to the utmoſt height. All their ſenſations are violent, but they have a character of energy and of ſublimity, that would

carry you away in ſpite of your better judgment and of all your philoſophy.

The phyſiognomy of a ſpaniſh woman bears the ſtamp of ſenſibility. Her ſlender form, her majeſtic ſtep, her ſonorous voice, her black and brilliant eye, the vivacity of her geſticulation, in a word the whole action of her perſon ſhows the temperature of her ſoul. Her premature charms are too ſoon diſplayed, and fade with equal rapidity. The climate, the heating aliments they uſe, exceſs in their amuſements, every thing contributes to produce this effect. At forty years of age a ſpaniſh woman ſeems twice as old, and her whole exterior ſhows exhauſtion and premature old age. Almoſt all have a down upon their upper lip, a peculiarity which ſhows the warmth of their conſtitutions, but which is ſo diſagreeable, that they have recourſe to the *velleras* or women whoſe buſineſs it is to pluck out the hair. Almoſt all have ſpoiled their teeth by an immoderate uſe of *dulces* or ſweetmeats.

A ſpaniſh woman is ſincerely and irrevocably attached to her religion. Her tender veneration for the madonna, her devotion to her patron ſaint may occupy her infantine heart, the pomp of ceremonies may amuſe her unpractiſed ſenſes, but theſe pious illuſions, this myſtical enthuſiaſm, and theſe ſacred tenderneſſes certainly open her ſoul to the attacks of love. To love a ſaint naturally awakens a ſenſe of her ſexuality, and thus a voluptuous de-

votion becomes from ſixteen years of age the moſt important occupation of her life. In this view alone can the contradictions in her conduct be explained, and her continual alternations of penitences and aberration accounted for, as well as the phyſical influences exerciſed over her by the prieſts.

Divided between religious duties and the pleaſures of ſenſe, a ſpaniſh woman ſeems to be in a ſtate of continual warfare between her conſcience and her conſtitution. Yet in ſpite of conſtraint nature at length overcomes the rigour of her principles, and ſhe ends by quieting her conſcience with the idea of being able to expiate enjoyment by a maſs or a prayer. Hence it is by no means rare to ſee a beautiful woman quit the arms of love to kneel before a madonna, and, being reconciled by this act of devotion, again haſten to give herſelf up to pleaſure.

The ſpaniſh women however are very far from delicate in objects of this kind. With a warm imagination and burning paſſions they are ignorant of thoſe charms, thoſe ſweet illuſions, which the fair ſex derive from delicacy. Hence the moſt unreſtrained language and the moſt laſcivious looks are incapable of making them bluſh, and what would excite the utmoſt indignation in a German or an Engliſhwoman appears perfectly ſimple and natural to a native of Spain, who yields without reſerve to

ſuch

ſuch licentious images, as the former would not dare to contemplate even in ſolitude.

It would be an error however to infer from theſe remarks the certainty of ſucceſs in the enterpriſes of a lover. They ſpeak it is true on theſe ſubjects with the freedom of men; their lips, their eyes, and their ears are alike ſtrangers to chaſtity, but their pride prevents their going farther. Such an attempt from a man would ſhow a ſenſe of ſuperiority, whereas 'tis they muſt reign with uncontrouled power. Every ſuch advance would therefore be rejected with diſdain. They muſt not be choſen, 'tis they muſt chooſe. 'Tis they that take upon themſelves the part of the man, to whom they only leave the duty of complying with their wiſhes, and giving himſelf up entirely to their will. Hence it is, that the moſt timid and the coldeſt of men are often more ſucceſsful with them than the moſt enterpriſing and impaſſioned lover. Their deſpotiſm forces the former to pay homage to their charms, for their pride has fixed upon them as their ſlaves. The more indifferent theſe appear, the more ardour the women ſhew; the more he ſhuns her, the more ſhe purſues him. One would imagine ſhe loved him, yet ſhe only deſires to be the object of his love. She ſeems to give herſelf up to him, yet ſhe only ſeeks to reduce him to ſubmiſſion.

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They are however faithful and conſtant. The energy of their character preſerves them from levity, and their pride from baſeneſs.

They are ſuſceptible of the moſt elevated ſentiments, of the moſt noble ſacrifices, of the moſt generous actions; but the ſource of theſe muſt be ſought not ſo much in her attachment to the object ſhe loves as in the high ideas ſhe entertains of herſelf. She conſiders her lover as her property, and uſes the ſame complaiſance toward him, that ſhe would feel for herſelf; but ſhe exacts in return the moſt abſolute devotion to her will.

Nothing can be more burdenſome than the reſtraint attached to the title of lover; it is one uninterrupted ſucceſſion of minute cares and attentions. Chained to the arm of his cara ſpoſa, he muſt accompany her every where like her ſhadow. At the Prado, at maſs, at the theatre, at the confeſſional, never muſt he quit her, and the whole weight of her affairs of every kind reſts upon his ſhoulders. Never muſt he approach her empty-handed, eſpecially on feaſt days. To him a wiſh however ſlightly expreſſed, a caprice the moſt undecided, is a command, while the moſt inviolable reſpect for her whims and fancies, and the moſt undiſturbed ſubmiſſion of temper are ſacred duties; in a word he muſt in all things be the paſſive agent of a woman, whoſe ardent imagination often commands

mands what is impoſſible with the moſt impatient egotiſm.

Such is the general character of the women of this country. We will now view them as relates to marriage.

This engagement is formed ſometimes from an appearance of mutual inclination, frequently from mere convenience, and the nuptial benediction renders it indiſſoluble. The lover however, who has hitherto appeared the moſt humble ſlave of his intended wife, ſuddenly becomes her maſter on the very day of his marriage. But while he endeavours to aſſert his forgotten rights, the wife defends hers with ſo much the more obſtinacy, and at the very moment when he is endeavouring to ſtrip her of her authority, ſhe increaſes her pretenſions. Thus marriage becomes a ſource of perpetual hoſtilities, which nouriſh a diſunion between the huſband and wife, and which are the principal cauſe of the continuance of the cuſtom of cortejos.

This word expreſſes generally a lover, but more particularly that of a married woman. Very frequently this lover has nothing but the name, and might more properly be called a friend, on whom are laid all the cares above deſcribed. But how can we reconcile this cuſtom with the ancient jealouſy of Spaniards toward their wives? or have we any preciſe notion of its origin? I can anſwer neither

neither of theſe queſtions; but I will obſerve, that cortejos are rarely found among the middle claſſes, and ſcarcely ever among the lower orders; that they frequently only ſerve for etiquette, but that ſtill more frequently they enjoy all the privileges of a huſband. This ſpecies of intimacy however is ſubject to ſuch rigorous laws, that the two parties in ſome meaſure inſulate themſelves from all other individuals of their ſex, and conſider the leaſt cauſe of ſuſpicion as unpardonable. But if on the one hand a lady watches her cortejo with the moſt extreme jealouſy, on the other hand ſhe is moſt rigid in her attentions to him; for all thoſe who are in this ſituation never give any other anſwer to the advances of ſtrangers who are either indiſcreet or ignorant of the cuſtoms of the country than contemptuous ſilence or haughty diſdain. Thus in all the tertullas every cortejo is placed beſide his female friend, nor can it be denied, that this ſervile reſtraint contributes greatly to give a coldneſs and a ſameneſs to ſociety.

In ſpeaking however of the multiplicity of unhappy marriages among the Spaniards, I do not mean to exclude all exceptions. But whoever obſerves with attention the interior of families, will eaſily convince himſelf that happy marriages, which are everywhere rare, are ſtill more ſo in this country. And where can the women receive that inſtruction which they ought to have or acquire juſt

notions

notions of their duties and deſtinations? All their education conſiſts in a knowledge of a ſyſtem of dogmas and ceremonies, to which is given the name of religion, and in cultivating a few external accompliſhments, ſuch as dancing, embroidery, and playing the guitar. To them marriage is a ſtate of idleneſs and of pleaſure. It is on the huſband that all the cares of the houſe and of marketing fall, and in the firſt and middling claſſes it is even very rare to ſee a mother nurſe her own children. All the journals in the great towns, as Madrid, Cadiz, Malaga, Valencia, Barcelona, &c. are full of advertiſements of nurſes wanted or offering their ſervices, and an expreſs condition is often inſerted that the child is to be *taken away*, a cuſtom, which though unknown among our german compatriots is very general both here and in France.

It is true that in Spain women were formerly in a ſtate of the moſt abject ſlavery, inſomuch that ſince the general civilization of Europe ſpaniſh jealouſy has become proverbial; but in progreſs of time the manners of Spain, running from one extreme to the other, are almoſt become more free than in any other country. Women pay and receive viſits, form their tertullas at will, go to public fêtes without conſulting their huſbands, ſpend the income of their dowries as they pleaſe, and demand beſides a certain proportion of pin-money, which is ſtipulated in their marriage articles. In a word

word they not only know how to assert their rights, but enforce their pretensions with the utmost rigour. They also combine together with a kind of esprit de corps, by means of which the slightest infringement of common usage is resented as an attack or an injury done to the whole sex.

These ill-assorted marriages sometimes produce the most horrid acts of revenge. I will relate one of the most recent examples, which took place during my residence at Madrid.

Doña Antonia, a charming woman about 29 years of age at most, was married to a merchant, a man of a mild temper, but capricious and of a weak constitution. This lady had always lived a very retired life, till a young man from Valencia, who came to study the law at Madrid, was recommended to her husband, and thus had access to her. Doña Antonia was pleased with his person, which procured him her favour, and all the privileges attached to it. The husband however perceived their intimacy, and by means of the offers and honourable means he employed succeeded in dismissing the young man, without affording Doña Antonia an opportunity of opposing the measure.

The letters however of Doña Antonia pursued her lover wherever he went, and love and revenge rendered them so eloquent, that the young man some months after broke his word and returned secretly to Madrid. He then renewed his interviews

views with her at a private houſe, and his paſſion daily increaſed. At length the time arrived, that Antonia ventured to communicate to him a plan, ſhe had long ſince formed, of aſſaſſinating her huſband, and offered him on that condition her hand and her fortune. Don Juan ſhuddered with horror at the propoſal, begged her to abandon the idea, ſhowing her the dreadful conſequences of ſo black an action, which he abſolutely refuſed to perpetrate. Hereupon at firſt ſhe treated him with the profoundeſt contempt, and then gave herſelf up to all the extremes that could be ſuggeſted by deſpair. She employed alternately menaces, prayers, and imprecations, then recurred to all the artifices that revenge or love could contrive, till at length Don Juan conſented, and the death of the huſband was reſolved. They were engaged in contriving the means of affecting this, when the following circumſtance occurred to haſten its execution.

Doña Antonia had preſented one of her watches to Don Juan, but her huſband miſſing it, ſhe accuſed the cook of having ſtolen it, and under that pretext diſcharged her. The huſband however meeting the woman upbraided her with her conduct, but ſhe juſtified herſelf by revealing to him the whole ſecret. He therefore brought her home, concealed her in an alcove, called his wife, and made the pretended theft the topic of converſation.

ſation. The remainder of this interview may eaſily be imagined. And now all was loſt, and nothing but the death of her huſband could ſave her. The grief of the huſband for the infidelity of his wife brought on a fever, and he was obliged to confine himſelf to his bed. It was therefore determined to ſend all the ſervants out on the following Sunday, and leave the patient alone. The opening the door of the balcony was the ſignal agreed on, and thus the plot was executed. The lover entered the apartment with a poniard in his hand, fell upon the ſick man, gave him ſeveral ſtabs in the belly, and made his eſcape. But the unfortunate huſband calling for help, a young girl who was with her aunt Doña Antonia heard him. The noiſe of Don Juan in eſcaping alſo attracted her attention, as ſhe ran to the apartment of her uncle, whom ſhe found weltering in his blood, and immediately called her aunt. It may eaſily be conceived that the latter did not fail to cry out for help too, and to feign the deepeſt deſpair. Meanwhile the young man had gained the gate of Toledo, and was going to quit Madrid, when he recollected he had no money: he therefore turned back, and went to his apartment to get ſome, but ſtrongly impreſſed with the embarraſſment in which he imagined the object of his love to be, he went to a woman of his acquaintance, and there waited to receive ſome tidings of her.

Two days paſſed on, the report of this aſſaſſination ſpread over Madrid, and in the interval the perſon who was in the ſecret of their connection revealed it to her confeſſor, who adviſed her to go and inform the alcalde-mayor. The ſuſpicion was confirmed by an intercepted letter, and the culprits were arreſted. Don Juan immediately confeſſed, and Doña Antonia, who had at firſt denied her crime, was convicted. The proſecution continued four months, after which they were both condemned and ſentenced to ſuffer death. All the intereſt and the moſt conſiderable offers were made in vain. At firſt Doña Antonia flew in a rage, when ſhe was informed that her lover had confeſſed, and loaded him with reproaches and with abuſe; but in her laſt moments her love ſeemed to be renewed with increaſed ardour, and when her ſentence was read to her ſhe aſked, "Y Don Juan tendra la miſma ſuerte?"—"And will Don John ſuffer the ſame fate?"—which being anſwered in the affirmative, ſhe replied, "Pues ſeñores la ſiento mucho mas que la mia"—"I am much more grieved, gentlemen, for him than for myſelf,"—and immediately fainted.

The day of execution at length arrived, for which a ſcaffold had been erected in the Plaza-mayor. The two culprits, having received the ſacrament in the chapel of the Dominicans, were conducted to execution by the confraternity del Refugio.

Refugio. They were both dreſſed in black, and Doña Antonia wept. She would have embraced her lover for the laſt time, but he turned away his head, till the confeſſor at length reconciled them. She had begged as a favour to be ſtrangled firſt, but the ſentence was that both ſhould be executed at the ſame moment. They were each on a ſeparate ſeat. Don Juan fainted at the moment when the cord was put round him, but Doña Antonia ſat with great decency, caſting her eyes upon her lover. They were diſpatched in about a minute.

It muſt here be remarked, that in Spain there is a difference between ſtrangling (dar garotes), and hanging (ahorcar), in the former of which a wheel is uſed, which turns a cord acroſs a beam, before which the criminal ſits.

According to cuſtom the bodies remained expoſed in the ſame ſtate till ſunſet. Twelve candles of yellow wax burned near them on black ſtands, and ſome of the executioner's attendants kept guard. The whole ſquare ſwarmed with people from four in the morning, and continued ſo throughout the day. The obſervations and judgments of the ſpectators all bore the ſtamp of the national character. The faces of the deceaſed being black in conſequence of the reflux of blood during the ſuffocation, the people of courſe attributed this to the violence the devil had done to their ſouls.

They compared the two countenances. The men made excuſes for Don Juan, and the women took up the defence of Doña Antonia. The majority pitied their unhappy fate. This probably it was, that induced a curate ſome days after to ſay in his ſermon, "that he knew for certain, that Madrid contained thouſands of women, one half of whom had been guilty of ſimilar crimes, and the other meditated the perpetration of them." I am willing to hope, that the pious paſtor in his zeal ſomewhat exaggerated, yet it is certain that the ſpaniſh women are too often led by the manners of the country to rid themſelves of their huſbands by poiſon or any other method. But let us quit theſe gloomy ideas, and ſay ſomething of their dreſs.

The national coſtume of the women when they go out, conſiſts of a petticoat called baſquiña, thrown over that worn at home, and a kind of veil called mantilla. The former is black or very dark brown, or the latter black or white, and in ſmall towns ſometimes red or green. The baſquiñas are generally ſilk trimmed with ſingle, double, or triple flounces very broad and adorned with ſilk taſſels. They are open in front, being tied with ribands, and are only cloſed below. The mantillas, made of caſimir from Sileſia, Saxony, or England, are generally adorned with embroidery or vandyked trimmings, eſpecially the black, which

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are uſed in winter. They are attached to a pad, which is kept in its place by a comb, or to the riband that encircles the head and binds the hair. Sometimes it is thrown back like a ſmall capuchin on the head and ſhoulders, ſometimes it covers the face or boſom, ſometimes it floats freely, and out of town it is often taken off or falls down behind.

The baſquiña and the mantilla in reality conſtitute the ſpaniſh national female dreſs out of doors, and without them women never appear in public. The poor and women of the lower orders go ſometimes without a baſquiña, but rarely without a mantilla; for it is indiſpenſably neceſſary to have both to be completely dreſſed.

Young girls from their earlieſt infancy wear the baſquiña and mantilla, and it is doubtleſs the cuſtom of wearing them ſo young, that gives them that habitual elegance and that peculiar art and grace, with which they uſe them; a grace by which they are diſtinguiſhed from all other nations, for the mantilla looks like a ſack upon a German or a French woman, and does not become them at all; whereas on a Spaniard it is a graceful ornament, that gives to all the features an animated and faſcinating air. Being accuſtomed to the veil from their earlieſt infancy, all their motions are in harmony with its undulations. Short and tranſparent according to the preſent cuſtom, it does not hide

their waſte, and ſuffers all the graces of their ſlender and attractive forms to be perceived. In the ſouthern provinces, during the ſummer months, the women ſometimes wear light jackets without ſleeves, and envelop their boſoms and arms in the mantilla in a very pleaſing manner. Viſits of etiquette are always made and received in a mantilla and baſquiña, but intimates throw off both, as they can put them on in an inſtant. Theſe two articles of dreſs are very convenient, and ſometimes cauſe the wearers to neglect what is beneath them.

Women of the firſt claſs adopt the french faſhions, and have almoſt renounced the national dreſs, except when they go out on foot, or to public aſſemblies, to church, or to the theatre. They are always excuſed from wearing them in the country, and even in the garden of Retiro.

Faſhion indeed has already extended her empire even to this ſpecies of dreſs. The mantillas are now ſhorter, and black gowns with long bodies are worn, in which the body and baſquiña are in one piece. There are even baſquiñas of net work, very tranſparent, under which are light petticoats that ſhow the ſhape. In winter are worn a kind of peliſſes over which the veil is thrown back, but the old people find great fault with theſe innovations, and give thoſe who adopt them the nickname of Pierracas y Madamitas.

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It is well known that this dreſs originated from the time of the ancient Moors, and that it is ſtill in uſe in Barbary. Fans ſeem alſo to have the ſame origin, which accounts for their almoſt univerſal uſe in Spain from the queen to the beggar, from old age to infants three years old.

The dreſs at home conſiſts of a jacket and petticoat of ſilk, cotton, &c. The white or coloured petticoats worn under the baſquiñas are called *guardapies*, and the under-petticoats *exaguas*. They are furniſhed with a very light white cloth and adorned with fringe. The laws of luxury require them to be changed every day, and even oftener. Corſets however have taken place of ſtays, and the pads behind have fortunately vaniſhed long ſince.

As to the head-dreſs it differs according to the rank of the wearers and in the various provinces; at leaſt among thoſe women, who have not adopted the french faſhion of frizzing the hair.

Women of the middle claſs wear generally a cofia, which is a kind of large bag of taffeta with a number of trimmings. The cofia is fixed to the middle of the head, and embraces the treſſes behind. Above it is an ivory comb upon the front hair to which is attached the pad ſpoken of above uſed for ſupporting the mantilla. They often add an aigrette.

The head-dreſs of the lower orders of women varies in different provinces. In Biſcay they wear

white or coloured handkerchieves, which cover part of their long treſſes and diſtinguiſh the married from the ſingle. In Old Caſtile, the Aſturias, and Galicia, the women wear pointed beaver caps with ſmall flaps or wings, and the hair hogged. In Eſtremadura they wear a chignon like the French, bind their hair with ribands, or wear little white caps. In Andaluſia they wear ſtraw hats, in Catalonia nets, &c. &c. The hair of the ſpaniſh women is generally of a fine black, and the uſe of powder is ſtill very rare.

In their ſtockings and ſhoes they are particularly elegant. For this reaſon their petticoats are ſhort, ſo that at every ſtep the calf of the leg may be ſeen through the long and moving fringe of the petticoat. Thoſe who can afford it wear ſilk ſtockings, and their ſhoes adorned with ſilver ſpangles. They are ſo luxurious in this reſpect, that many women uſe two pair in a week, and it is even expreſsly ſtipulated in their marriage contracts. High heels are ſtill in uſe, and at Madrid, Cadiz, &c. the french women who wear flat heels are expoſed to continual raillery. Splendid ear-rings and diamond roſettes are alſo much uſed, as well as bracelets and necklaces. The latter often conſiſt among the poor of a ſhabby roſary, on which are ſtrung counters or ſmall plates of braſs.

I have frequently heard the ſpaniſh women of different provinces diſtinguiſhed thus: The biſcayan

cayan are laborious, the catalonian excellent houſewives, the caſtilian prudes, the andaluſian ardent, the valencian clean, and thoſe of my province beautiful—the moſt beautiful.

LETTER XXXII.

General Remarks on the Scenery of the Country and the firſt Impreſſions made by it.—Character of the Spaniards.—Social Life.—Faſhion.—Eccleſiaſtical Syſtem.—Progreſs.—Literature and Books.—Libraries.—Deſcription of the Royal Library.—Journals and Newſpapers.

[The references (A), (B), (C), &c. refer to the proofs of each aſſertion given in the ſubſequent letter.]

Madrid.

A NEW country ſeems to a traveller like a new world: for there Nature, men, and things alike appear under more intereſting and more animated forms. At every ſtep his curioſity increaſes, and obſervation cannot remain idle for a moment. It is the firſt impreſſion that fixes his idea of the whole, and forms his judgment. A thouſand ſlight traits compoſe the general maſs, nor can theſe be too promptly ſeized, if we would tranſmit to others an accurate idea, of what we ſee, enlivened with that colouring, of which cuſtom ſoon deſtroys the freſhneſs.

On entering Old Caſtile we find ourſelves quite in a new country. Uniform plains, few houſes, ſtony and almoſt barren fields, with a few vineyards here and there, numerous flocks of ſheep, few horned

horned cattle, no meadows, no foreſts, no gardens nor country houſes, and in general a dreary and monotonous ſcene. Even the few villages we meet with but ſhow the miſery of the inhabitants. The houſes are of mud and half ruined, the roofs, which let in the light, loaded with ſtones in order to reſiſt the wind, but the churches, chapels, and monaſteries maſſive and magnificent.

If we enter the huts to take a view of the inhabitants, we are diſguſted with their filthy appearance (A); an entire ignorance of mechanic arts (B), a total want of domeſtic induſtry and of public economy; (C), their utenſils, their labours, their food, and their dreſs (D), every thing bears the ſtamp of miſery and want. No one ſhows either curioſity or intereſt (E); but much pride and gravity (F), probity, want of cultivation, and great natural ſhrewdneſs. Their dark ſun-burnt complexions, their hair as black as pitch, and their thick hairy eyebrows have at firſt a repulſive effect. They have all ſomething dark, ſavage, and ill looking, but we ſoon become accuſtomed to this national appearance, and often pleaſe ourſelves in developing beneath it an expreſſion of acuteneſs and of generoſity (G).

If we conſider the general character of the Spaniſh, ſetting apart the differences ariſing from the different provinces and profeſſions of individuals, we find that pride and generoſity are its baſis. Add

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to this a profound reſpect for the catholic ceremonies and religion (H), an undeviating attachment to every thing that cuſtom has eſtabliſhed, and a fixed averſion for every thing foreign and for all innovation (I).

In different parts of Spain, as I have juſt ſaid, there are ſome varieties. The inhabitants of the ſouthern provinces are more civilized than thoſe of the north. The higher claſſes have received more foreign cultivation: but notwithſtanding theſe ſhades of difference, which cannot be denied, their general character is always the ſame; their mode of life and their manners in all that concerns it are abſolutely alike.

Social life does not here offer thoſe intereſting reſources which we find in France, England, and Germany. Even in the capital and in the moſt opulent ſeaport towns thoſe public eſtabliſhments and thoſe charming aſſemblages with which Paris, London, Vienna, and Berlin abound are never ſeen. There is nothing beſides plays, bull-fights, promenades, and tertullas, and the luxury of a rural life and gardens is almoſt generally unknown.

The theatres and tertullas have frequently been deſcribed. The latter in all parts of Spain are exactly the ſame both in appearance and converſation. Large dinner or ſupper parties are never formed, nor any but theſe regular meetings at night, at

at which ſlight refreſhments are offered. Converſation, cards, and ſometimes a ſpecies of ball fill up the evening. Tertullas are a kind of meeting of etiquette, which takes place on particular days, [more generally every night] and in which the lady of the houſe forms in ſome meaſure the centre of union. It may eaſily be conceived that this monotony in ſocial life has ſome influence on the general civilization: it cauſes a ſterility of ideas, a habit of conſidering objects only in a ſingle point of view, and a ſpecies of pedantry in the manners of the people.

In general one cannot but remark, that the manners of ſociety even among the higher claſſes have not yet attained that amiable delicacy and amenity, which already prevail in many parts of Germany. Not that the Spaniſh are deficient in wit and vivacity, but nature is here wild and unembelliſhed by education, the advantages of cultivation and extended information are not yet ſpread abroad, and the public mind is ſtill in darkneſs and limited to mere ſenſual enjoyments.

Moſt ſyſtems of religion are but the firſt eſſays of reaſon. Founded in the ignorance and weakneſs of mankind, they muſt loſe ſome part of their authority as ſoon as the powers of the mind begin to unfold, and therefore they always ſtrive to prevent its cultivation: and what kind of cultivation can be expected, as long as the public education

remains in the hands of the clergy? What obſtacles has not education yet to overcome? How many uſeful enterpriſes will yet be ſacrificed to the intereſts of that body? And how long will not clerical routine ſtill influence the political ſyſtem!

But ſuch is the force of events, and ſuch the irreſiſtible activity of the human mind, that, in ſpite of prejudice and of all the fetters it endures, ſome rays of light have gone forth even in Spain (K). The government have perceived, that it is their intereſt to command a more informed people, have begun to ſap the foundation of eccleſiaſtical power, and favour the cultivation of the mind. It may be wiſhed perhaps, that they purſued a firmer ſyſtem, a better plan, and were more regular in their progreſs, but they have begun, and that is a great point gained. Are not the remains of barbariſm diſappearing? Does not the contraſt of rational ideas and old inſtitutions become more apparent? Does not the maſs of uſeful knowledge increaſe daily? Yes, moſt certainly. The ſpaniſh nation have begun to unfold their powers in ſilence, and will one day excite the attention and the aſtoniſhment of Europe.

The beneficent influence of increaſing liberty of thought is already felt by the ſciences themſelves (L). Literature and the book-trade are as it were two ſiſters, that mutually aid and encourage each other; but the book-trade is the younger ſiſter,

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and literature muſt grow up and unfold firſt. The book-trade is formed progreſſively after her, and ſerves as a ſtandard to judge of her. If political or religious ſlavery therefore prevents the growth of literature, the book-trade will in like manner be ſtinted and imperfect.

This is what has happened in Spain. After the acme of her glory was paſt, Spain ſank into a univerſal decay, and at the beginning of the preſent century had ſtill to begin her literary career. If ſhe advances but by ſlow degrees, if ſhe ſometimes ſeems retrograde, the cauſe muſt be attributed to the clergy, who would for ever condemn the whole nation to ignorance in order to be its maſters, and who chooſe to conſider human reaſon itſelf as a monſter and a crime in order to ſubdue it. In a country where the ſlighteſt expreſſion may expoſe a man to danger, where the power of cenſure is in the hands of monks, we muſt not expect to ſee literature flouriſh.

Another inconvenience ariſes from the imperfection of the book-trade. This defect, which ſprings from the abandonment of literature, becomes a ſecondary cauſe of its decay. The few books that have appeared are printed at the king's expenſe, or that of the authors themſelves, and theſe ſpeculations have always been attended with loſs.

But the book-trade has improved ſince the influence of the clergy has diminiſhed, the maſs of general

general knowledge increaſed, and literature gained conſiſtency and ſtrength. More is written, becauſe more is permitted to be publiſhed, and more is printed, becauſe there are more readers. It is true the ſpaniſh bookſellers cannot be compared to thoſe of Germany, but there are bookſellers in all the great firſt and ſecond rate cities, and that is ſufficient to ſet the machine in motion. Theſe libreros or bookſellers are not indeed both publiſhers and general retailers of all other publications, but a mixture of the two; that is, beſides the works they publiſh themſelves, they ſell a few, which thoſe in the ſame line intruſt to them on commiſſion, without carrying on a regular correſpondence or keeping a complete aſſortment. They have therefore no regular catalogues of their whole aſſortments, and rarely know any thing of other books than thoſe in their ſhop. If you aſk for one they do not know, they ſend the title to ſome correſpondent, ſuppoſing he may have it on commiſſion, or they procure it of a third, who perhaps ſells it for a fourth, and ſo on. What delays, what increaſe of price muſt ariſe from this mode! They ſell their books bound, and ſometimes the beſt engliſh and french works are found in their ſhops. The ſmaller bookſellers like our ſtall-keepers have ſtalls at the church doors and in the calle de Alcalà. There are however many great bookſellers in the Pueſto de Cerro.

Profeſſor

Profeſſor Sychſen has given us an idea of ſpaniſh literature with a general introduction to it, which is very inſtructive, in his german tranſlation of Bourgoanne's travels in Spain, and to which I muſt refer my readers. In addition to that valuable work I ſhall endeavour to give a liſt of the moſt important productions of the laſt eight years arranged under their reſpective heads. In this however I ſhall not ſilently paſs over *tranſlations*, which form the principal part, becauſe theſe will give a juſt criterion of the progreſs and objects of ſpaniſh reading; but we ſhall never have a complete liſt, till there are regular catalogues publiſhed in Spain and periodical critical journals (L. No. XI).

Such a catalogue is now begun at the royal preſs as to works publiſhed there, and an abatement of 5 per cent. is allowed on taking ten copies.

Libraries and literary journals are two very important reſources in literature. At Madrid, beſides the collections of books at monaſteries, there are three principal libraries, the royal library, that of San Iſidro, and that of the Duque de Medina Sidonia.

The royal library is at the weſtern extremity of the town in the quarter called Las Cañas del Peral. It is ſituated in a pretty ſpacious ſquare oppoſite the opera-houſe, but the outſide and inſide are alike

unworthy of remark. The edifice was formerly only a corridor leading from the palace to the adjoining church. The library only conſiſts of two long narrow ſlips or apartments with as many cabinets on the ſides, which are feebly lighted. In winter the paved floor is covered with mats (eſteras), and the rooms are warmed by twelve large chafing diſhes (braſeros). Latticed ſhelves run along the ſides, and in the middle are tables for four perſons each. When a book is aſked for, the four conſervadores or librarians only mention the number, and the under-librarians ſeek for it. This library is open five hours every day, and the time of ſhutting up is ſhown by a very handſome clock and alſo by a bell. There is a very remarkable order hung up, which prohibits the coming there in papillotes or in torn clothes, and requires that no wrapper coats be uſed, except as cloaks, and not as a dreſs. The reaſon aſſigned for this ſingular diſtinction is the negligence of young men, who under that cover often hide dirty waiſtcoats and breeches. A Swiſs is ſtationed at the door to ſee that theſe orders are obeyed.

The abovementioned dreſs, which was originally dutch, has long been uſed in Ruſſia, and the French have introduced it almoſt every where. In Spain it begins to ſupplant by degrees the uſe of cloaks, and it has here obtained the nickname of

citoyen,

citoyen, which ſufficiently ſhows its origin. Thus they ſay "Ponga vmd. ſu citoyen." "Put on your citoyen."

The number of books in this library is eſtimated at 200,000; but if we compare the ſpace they occupy with the libraries of Dreſden and Vienna, which are nearly as capacious, the aſſertion will appear incredible. Perhaps the apartment of prohibited books is included. But even in that caſe the number appears exaggerated. Almoſt all books publiſhed in Spain as well as the beſt foreign works are purchaſed, ſo that it muſt naturally increaſe from year to year. As to the librarians, they cannot indeed be compared with a Daſſdorf (of the dreſden library) or a Reuſs (of that of Gottingen), both men who ſeem born for their offices; but there is no reaſon to complain of them. It may eaſily be conceived, that, a great number of books being prohibited, they are often obliged to refuſe complying with the applications made to them. But who would imagine that ſuch works as Twiſs's Travels in Spain, Bourgoannes's Picture of Spain, and a vaſt number of ſimilar works are in this claſs? No prudent man will aſk for ſuch books as thoſe of Voltaire, but of works of hiſtory or geography no great notice is taken. It muſt however be preſumed, that many works of rather a delicate nature muſt have eſcaped through the ignorance of the

cenſors, and I myſelf procured without difficulty the writings of Bolingbroke and Shaftſbury.

As to the journals and periodical works, thoſe publiſhed in Spain are as follow:

1. Memorial literario, a monthly publication ſince June 1791—1793. This journal was dropped for a time, but was afterwards regularly continued, and a recapitulation made in ſupplementary volumes of the matter omitted. It coſts at Madrid by the year 36 reals, and as far as the frontiers of Spain, free of carriage, 75 reals. Subſcriptions are received by a bookſeller named Caſtillo at Madrid, frente a las gradas de S. Felipe el Real. To explain its preſent plan I will give the liſt of contents of one of the laſt numbers; viz. On the dangerous effects of monopolies in trade—On certain animals and plants that prognoſticate changes of weather—On the mode of cultivating coffee and the means of introducing it at the Havannah—Whether the inſcriptions on the ancient celtic coins are in the baſque language—On the works that have obtained prizes at the ſociety of Granada—Notices on foreign literature—On the ſtatue of Memnon—On the exiſtence and ſituation of certain iſlands, that are little known, between Japan and California—On the obſtacles raiſed by the ancient philoſophers to the advancement of ſound philoſophy—On Garnerin's experiment on parachûtes—Medical obſervations—Domeſtic literature.

2. Miſ-

2. Miſcelanea inſtructiva y curioſa ò Anales de Literatura, Ciencias, y Artes. "Miſcellanies inſtructive and curious, or annals of literature, ſcience, and arts", in numbers. This journal was ſome years ago ſubſtituted in place of an ancient periodical work called Eſpiritu de los mejores Diarios de Europa, or The ſpirit of the beſt european journals, and contains many extracts from the beſt foreign periodical works, together with many other original articles very important, eſpecially on account of the ideas they contain relative to ſtatiſtics and geographical ſubjects. Each number coſts four reals at Madrid and five in the provinces. The principal bookſeller who ſells them is Alonſo. One of the laſt numbers contains the following articles: Wadſtrom on the colonies of Sierra-Leona and Bulam—Letter of the french miniſter of the interior on encreaſing the plantations of trees—Marmontel on dramatic illuſion—Invention of a new ſugar-mill (ingenio de azucar) in the iſland of Cuba—Notices on North America by Coope—On the means of ſeconding the inclination of children to learn—On the invaſions of England from the time of William the conqueror—Decree of the king of Pruſſia relative to the academy of Berlin—Arrival at Paris of two elephants from the Hague—Obſervations to determine the difference of the meridians of Paris and Madrid—On the agriculture of

Guatimala—Smith on dancing as an imitative art—On the internal uſe of phoſphorus—On privileges—On the venetian poſſeſſions on the coaſt of Albania and in the neighbouring ſea—On the work of the ſenator Arunni entitled "The Maritime Law of Europe"—Anatomy of the retina—On the precautions neceſſary in giving alms—Subjects propoſed for prizes—Foreign books, &c. &c.

3. Seminario erudito y curioſo de Salamanca (ſince 1795). Seminary of learning and amuſement of Salamanca. 18 reals each number.

4. Correo literario de Murcia (ſince 1792). Literary courier of Murcia.

Theſe two journals appear monthly, and contain articles on objects of general utility, extracts from books, &c. &c.

5. Correo mercantil de Eſpaña y de ſus Indias. Commercial courier of Spain and her colonies. (Two ſheets a week ſince the end of 1792.) It coſts at Madrid three piaſtres and two reals, and in the provinces free of carriage five piaſtres and twelve reals. It contains obſervations on the temperature relatively to agriculture and vegetables—comparative tables of the prices of corn—technological, economical, and commercial articles, but always with relation to Spain—geographico-ſtatiſtic notices relative to countries remote from the mother country—commercial intelligence—liſts of

ſhips

ſhips arrived in the principal ports of Spain—the courſe of exchange—and at the end of the year a ſtatement of the exports and imports in the principal ports of the kingdom.—The office is at No. 3. in Calle de Alcalà.

6. The various diarios, i. e. diaries, journals, or newſpapers publiſhed in the different cities of Spain muſt here alſo be noticed. Beſides the common intelligence of events they contain miſcellaneous matter and uſeful information of every claſs, and certainly this journal contributes not a little to its diffuſion.

7. The gazettes of Madrid and Barcelona are publiſhed twice a week, and the Correo de Cadiz and the Poſtillon del Correo every day. The political intelligence indeed is not very intereſting, but notices relative to literature and the arts are detailed in them with conſiderable minuteneſs. I have ſeen in them tranſlations of the letters of Lalande on the obſervations of Meſſier and Burkhardt relative to the laſt comet, notices of the journey of Lalande to viſit Zach of Gotha, and the ſubjects propoſed for prizes by the principal academies in Europe. The ſtyle of theſe journals is conſidered as tolerably pure and good. They alſo contain extracts from ſpaniſh works.

8. Mercurio hiſtorico y politico, publiſhed monthly. It reſembles in point of form the political journal, but is not ſo full of matter, and only

contains the news. It concludes however with notices relative to literature and the arts.

9. Correo literario de Gerona (in Catalonia), publiſhed twice a week, of which one number is always appropriated to the military.

The almanacks publiſhed annually (beſides the almanack of the court or court calendar) are,

1. Almanaque nautica y Efemeridas aſtronomicas para el año—calculadas de orden de S. M. para el obſervatorio real de Cadiz, printed at the royal printing-houſe Madrid (imprenta real) at twelve reals. That is to ſay Nautical almanack and ephemerides for the year—by order of his majeſty, for the obſervatory of Cadiz.

2. Almanaque mercantil ò Guia de Comerciantes. Mercantile almanack or merchant's vade-mecum. It contains a complete tarif of the ſpaniſh cuſtoms —a commercial directory with the addreſſes of the tribunals of commerce of different places—foreign intelligence—tables of intereſt on the vales reales or royal bonds—comparative tables of foreign weights and meaſures with thoſe of Spain, &c. Sold by Cerro, price 1 piaſtre.

3. Noticias varias y curioſas de Madrid para el año—Various and curious notices on Madrid for the year.—It contains additions to the court calendar, as for inſtance the names of the members who compoſe the municipal tribunal (Ayuntamiento) and other inferior offices not enumerated in the former,

former, the moſt recent topographical alterations, and other local information, which are by no means uſeleſs to travellers. Sold by Caſtillo and by Cerro, price 6 reals.

LETTER XXXIII.

Supplementary Letter containing Additions and Proofs of the foregoing Deſcription of the Spaniſh.—Filthineſs in their Perſons, Streets, and Houſes.—Backwardneſs in the Mechanical Arts.—Utenſils and Furniture.—Want of domeſtic Induſtry.—Ignorance of public Economy.—Aliments.—Spaniſh Diſhes.—Dreſs.—Coſtume of the Men.—Curioſity and Intereſt.—Extreme Propenſity to aſk Queſtions.—Hoſpitality.—Natural Generoſity.—Behaviour.—Pride and Gravity, and how we ſhould judge of theſe Qualities.—Phyſiognomy.—The Eccleſiaſtical Eſtabliſhment; its preſent State and Effects.—Hatred of Foreigners and of Innovations.—The French.—Political Temper.—Deſcription of the public elementary Inſtitutions at Madrid.—Patriotic Societies.—Literature.—Philology and Literature in general.—Theology.—Legiſlation.—Philoſophy.—Ethics.—Politics.—Science of Commerce.—Geography.—Hiſtory.—Antiquities.—Travels.—Technology and Arts.—Mathematics.—Natural Hiſtory.—Aſtronomy.—Agriculture and other Sciences relative thereto.—Education.—Belles Lettres.

Madrid.

(A) THEIR filthy appearance.—This want of cleanlineſs ariſes principally from the ſcarcity of linen. It is true Spain itſelf ſupplies its inhabitants with a coarſe kind of linen, but even this is very dear. A very indifferent ſhirt always coſts a piaſtre and a half, a fine one of good ſileſia cloth or of holandeſas contrahechas or mock hollands 4 piaſtres. Fine linen therefore becomes an article

of

of ſuperior luxury, not of neceſſity; and in general it is abſolutely wanting, though the various provinces and the different profeſſions of life exhibit much variation in this reſpect. The common people for inſtance only change their linen once a month, and hence ariſe great filthineſs and many unavoidable cutaneous diſeaſes.

As to certain kinds of vermin, the delicacy that prevails among other nations is here unknown. In villages, ſmall towns, and even in the inferior quarters of large cities, married people and neighbours are accuſtomed to relieve each other, but when this ſervice is performed between unmarried perſons, it is conſidered as a certain proof of too great an intimacy between them. In large towns there are perſons who ſpecifically purſue this buſineſs as a trade. They regularly attend ſome of their cuſtomers at home, and receive others in ſtalls made of mats in the public ſquares or before the doors of houſes. The heat of the climate, the uſe of nets, and the general abundance of hair concur in the production and multiplication of this inconvenient race, who frequently reſpect not even the moſt beautiful heads.

A great want of cleanlineſs is alſo in general remarked both in public places and in private houſes; but Madrid and Cadiz, if we except the inferior quarters of them, are undeniably the two cleaneſt cities in Europe; eſpecially Cadiz, where people hardly

hardly ride at all in carriages. Nor is this branch of police entirely neglected in moſt of the great cities; but in the ſmall towns, boroughs, and villages, not the ſmalleſt attention is paid to it. And if even at Madrid and Cadiz we ſee in certain quarters carcaſes of animals, ordure, and other filth, judge what muſt be the ſtate of leſs conſiderable places.

As to domeſtic clealineſs, it is more frequently found in the northern and ſouthern provinces, than in the inland parts, and it may naturally be expected, that the higher orders will diſtinguiſh themſelves in this reſpect from the lower claſſes. Yet dirt and filth generally prevail throughout all the provinces and all ranks of people. Frequently it is even united with luxury and the greateſt diſplay of pomp. The moſt incommodious vermin are often found in the moſt magnificent palaces, and while the greateſt reſpect is paid to the exterior, no one, not even the men, make the leaſt ſcruple of dirtying the veſtibule and ſtairs in the moſt diſguſting manner.

If to all this we add the want of the moſt neceſſary conveniences and the multitude of lodgers who are crowded together in the ſame habitations, it may eaſily be conceived that the houſes in this country cannot exhibit much cleanlineſs.

(B) An entire ignorance of the mechanic arts.—Even in the largeſt cities, where people might employ

ploy ſkilful workmen, many houſes are deſtitute of the moſt uſeful pieces of furniture, as commodes and waſhing ſtands, but in the ſmall towns, boroughs, and remote villages there is almoſt a total want of innumerable little conveniences, which are to be found all over Germany, even in the ſmalleſt places. And why? 'Tis that the prices of them are ſtill too high, and the opportunities of procuring them very rare on account of their remoteneſs. Men who are contracted in their ideas feel indifferent to all theſe comforts, and confine themſelves to what is moſt abſolutely neceſſary. Thus in many inland villages one ſcarcely finds at the houſes of eccleſiaſtics a glaſs or two to drink out of, and knives, forks, and ſpoons are conſidered as objects of curioſity. The only thing that is found every where is a wooden clock, becauſe the german clock-makers from the black foreſt hawk them about from town to town. But if we examine the ploughs, the ſcythes, the hatchets, and other implements of huſbandry, we ſhall be aſtoniſhed at their imperfections and their rudeneſs. The being accuſtomed to every thing that is ancient, and to whatever belongs to the eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhment, baniſhes every attempt, every idea of improvement, notwithſtanding the natural talents of Spaniards and the efforts made by the patriotic ſocieties in every part to reanimate and civilize

vilize the nation both by writings and by premiums.

(C) A total want of domeſtic induſtry and public economy.—The art of making certain common manufactures, the manner of preparing certain aliments are here unknown, as are the arts of managing bees, of planting trees, and in a word of rendering the various animal and vegetable productions of the earth uſeful to man.

(D) Their food and their dreſs.—I have already ſaid that the national diſhes are ſtill retained even among the higher claſſes, although they unite them with thoſe introduced from foreign countries. The ſpaniſh bill of fare is confined almoſt to the following diſhes: 1. Olla or puchero, conſiſting of beef, various kinds of vegetables, bacon, and ſauſages (chorizos) all boiled together: the gravy is eaten firſt as ſoup. 2. Peſcado, fiſh dreſſed with oil and vinegar, or fried (frito). 3. Guiſado, a kind of ragoût compoſed principally of fowl. It is dreſſed with oil in a frying pan and tomates or love-apples are often added. 4. Huevos eſtrellados, eggs beat up into a kind of omelet, and huevos fritos, eggs fried with butter, both with tomates. 5. Gaſpacho, a kind of ſour ſoup made with vinegar, onions, bread, and oil. All theſe diſhes are frequently highly ſeaſoned with pepper, eſpecially pimento, the pods of which ſtill green (pirrentones)

are dried or pickled in vinegar. In the ſouthern provinces the muleteers and other travellers generally carry their oil and vinegar in cow-horns, and ſlices of bacon (preſas) in tin caſes.

As to the coſtume, I have already deſcribed that of the women. Of the men I muſt obſerve, that the cloak is in fact ſtill the moſt uſual dreſs, but it is by no means worn habitually. Perſons of the higher and middle claſſes dreſs in the french or engliſh ſtyle, according as they happen to be at peace with either of thoſe nations. Old men adhere to the ancient modes, but the young copy every novelty, and we find as complete beaux in Spain as elſewhere. Under the cloak is always worn a ſhort jacket, eſpecially among the lower orders, who adhere more cloſely to this national dreſs, and to whom the hair-nets and girdles ſeem almoſt entirely confined.

(E) Neither curioſity nor intereſt.—The curioſity of the Spaniſh is by no means a trait to be paſſed over in pourtraying their general character. It ariſes in ſome meaſure from their being very little acquainted with foreign manners and other objects, and partly from their natural inclination to activity, which only requires more occaſions for developing it and more wiſdom to direct it. Their converſation with foreigners conſiſts almoſt entirely of queſtions, a cuſtom which is common to both high and the low. Your name, the place of your birth,

birth, your age, your fortune, the motives that bring you to Spain, your relations, every thing, even the ſmalleſt trifles are intereſting to them. They are above all deſirous to know the price of articles of dreſs, of furniture, &c. &c. in your country. I could give innumerable examples of the affection of the Spaniſh for foreigners, and of their hoſpitality. This laſt is principally found in the various provinces, particularly the ſouthern, being a remnant of mooriſh manners. In theſe parts no one can take even a glaſs of water without offering ſome to his neighbour, eſpecially if a woman. It is the ſame at table, where you are every moment aſked "Eſta vm̃d. ſervido? Sirveſe vm̃d," "Are you helped? Do help yourſelf." It is true one is not tempted to accept their offers on account of the ſtrange appearance of the diſhes, but you are always ſure of being well received. A Spaniard would even think himſelf affronted if you refuſed his offer, provided you ſeem to want the thing tendered. He would ſay "Porque no toma vm? Somos Eſpañoles," "Why do you not take it? We are Spaniards." In general one finds among the Spaniſh a natural ſenſe of juſtice and equity, a very great degree of politeneſs, a generoſity that pervades all their actions, and which renders that nation highly eſtimable in the eyes of every impartial obſerver. Notwithſtanding this Spaniards are not very eager to make new acquaintances, unleſs you excite

excite their compaſſion. An almoſt habitual miſtruſt renders them a little reſerved, and makes them rather tardy in opening their hearts. But on the other hand, if they once declare themſelves in your favour, you may rely on their friendſhip and good offices. Thoſe who ſpeak their language obtain their confidence moſt readily, and you will ſcarcely find a nation that places a higher value on the eſteem of their fellow creatures.

(F) Pride and gravity.—Pride is in reality but a certain elevation of mind, of which gravity is a falſe or an exaggerated expreſſion. This is evident on the firſt view of the ſpaniſh; although in certain caſes a ſpaniard is a little jealous of the prerogatives due to his rank, he does not make others feel it, and although it is eaſy to captivate him by ſhowing him reſpect and treating him with deference, he is indignant at cringing fawning manners. A ſuperior title ſeems to flatter him, but he little values the advantages he poſſeſſes in this reſpect. Much has been ſaid of ſpaniſh pride and gravity, but it is certain that we find leſs ceremony and more real politeneſs among them, leſs moroſeneſs and a greater equality among different conditions of men, leſs pride among the great, and more contempt for the prejudices of birth, than in Germany. A duke of Oſſuna for inſtance or a duke of Medina Sidonia will treat literary men or artiſts and every other individual with a conſideration and a

civility, of which more examples might be desired in our own country.

(G) It cannot be said, that the Spanish are ugly; on the contrary they have acute and very expressive countenances; but their first appearance is not favourable in the eyes of the inhabitants of our northern climates. Their dark and livid complexions are sometimes inimical to their wishes, even with their country women, provided they have a foreigner for a rival; and it is a common saying among women, "Nosotras gustamos las carnes estrangeras."—"We like foreign complexions." The provinces however produce some varieties in this respect. A Biscayan is whiter than a Castilian, and a Catalonian less dark-coloured than an Andalusian.

(H) The changeableness of human opinions, and the discredit into which all speculative systems of dogmas have fallen, are shown by innumerable examples. Then how have religious opinions still maintained themselves here? It is that they are engraved at an early age in the infant mind, that the first impressions are indelible, that habits once formed are scarcely ever changed, and that the majority of mankind are either too indolent or too weak to bring their opinions to the test of reason. Add to this, that the religious system is supported by the whole public force, and it will be easy to resolve the problem.

This

This is what has taken place in Spain, and ſtill exiſts there in part. I ſay in part, becauſe as the general cultivation has advanced, the influence of the eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhment has begun to diminiſh. But the triumph of *true catholiciſm*, I mean a univerſal religion, is ſtill very incomplete. It is true, their manners being now ſomewhat ſoftened, the Inquiſition is become a tribunal purely of moral diſcipline; but its ancient ſpirit is ſtill unaltered. It is true, that the wretches who have been born and educated without the pale of the church are no longer condemned to the flames as formerly, but the ſecret meaſures uſed on certain occaſions do not ſeem much better. No one is compelled to profeſs the eſtabliſhed religion, but the public papers announce the converſions that take place with an air of triumph.

Theſe new converts are not indeed in general people of good character, yet ſome honeſt men are found among them. In fact it is generally ſome temporal intereſt that leads to theſe converſions. Thus ſeveral Engliſhmen have renounced their faith in order to obtain permiſſion to eſtabliſh privileged manufactures or breweries, and I know one or two dutch ſailors who have become apoſtates in order to marry well and thus obtain fortunes.

Among the common people there is no diſtinct idea of religion or its dogmas. To be a Chriſtian

it ſuffices to go to maſs, which thoſe who fail to do are accounted Jews or Moors. To them the whole human race is divided into thoſe who go to maſs and thoſe who do not, into Chriſtians, or Jews and Mahometans. Women in particular have frequently ſuch confuſed ideas of theſe pretended Jews, that through natural and phyſical averſion to judaiſm they would reſiſt the handſomeſt form, and repreſs all their natural ardor of conſtitution.

(I) A fixed averſion for every thing foreign and for all innovation.—This hatred it is true is much diminiſhed among the higher claſſes, and yet ſome perſons are found among them who are as ardent in this reſpect as the lower orders of people. If among the one party every thing that comes from abroad thereby recommends itſelf to notice, and if foreign is preferred to domeſtic merit, the other party, which is far the more numerous, deſpiſes every progreſs made by other nations, all the inventions they produce, and conſider every foreigner as an enemy to their country. This hatred is not ſo ſtrong againſt any other nation as the French. It is true the engliſh and french parties are in conſtant oppoſition, even at the foot of the throne. Of late (in 1799) the latter ſeems to begin to gain the aſcendancy, but the ardor of theſe factions is rather the conſequence of the hatred of a few powerful nobles for each other, than of the national intereſt. The one eſpouſes the engliſh party, be-

cauſe

cauſe his antagoniſt favours the french, and the latter declares againſt the engliſh, becauſe his adverſary does not like the french. Beſides, the french revolutionary principles, notwithſtanding all the precautions taken, have ſpread conſiderably: the abolition of tythes (diezmos) in particular has found many partiſans, and it may be aſſerted that Spain does not want its clandeſtine revolutionary clubs. In general, however, the exceſſes of the ſyſtem of terror have produced here fear and execration; and the methodical fanaticiſm of the clergy and the authority of the eccleſiaſtical ſyſtem ſtill retain a ſtrong influence on the political ideas of the majority. The ſpaniſh monarchy finds in this national hatred, which the government cheriſh toward the French, in the ſpirit of the different provinces, in the conſtitution of the clergy, and in the fidelity of the nation to their king, many very apparent ſupports. I ſay apparent, becauſe, notwithſtanding all the inquiſitions political and eccleſiaſtical, certain ſymptoms are evident, and it ſeems as if, conſidering the general corruption, the government cannot expect a very durable exiſtence.

(K) Some rays of light.—The following is a liſt of the public academies, colleges, and inſtitutions for the purpoſe of inſtruction and improvement at Madrid alone.

1. Real academia Eſpañola. The royal academy of Spain.

2. Real academia de la hiſtoria. The royal academy of hiſtory.

3. Real academia de las nobles artes. The royal academy of the polite arts, with a library which is generally open four hours a-day three times a-week.

4. Real academia medica Madritenſe. The royal academy of medicine at Madrid.

5. Real ſociedad economica Madritenſe, y junta de damas unida a la ſociedad. The royal economical ſociety of Madrid, with an aſſemblage of ladies aſſociated to the ſociety. Theſe are ladies of the firſt rank, who employ themſelves in uſeful, economical, and domeſtic experiments.

6. Real academia de derecho, con el titulo de Carlos III. The royal academy of law under the name of Charles III.

7. Real academia de juriſprudencia practica con el titulo de la puriſſima concepcion. The royal academy of practical juriſprudence under the name of the immaculate conception.

8. Real academia de juriſprudencia teorico-practica. The royal academy of theoretico-practical juriſprudence.

9. Real academia de ſagrados canones, liturgia, hiſtoria y diſciplina eccleſiaſtica. The royal academy of ſacred canons, liturgy, and eccleſiaſtical hiſtory and diſcipline.

10. Real

10. Real academia de derecho civil, canonico, y patrio. The royal academy of civil law, canon law, and the law of the land.

11. Real academia de derecho patrio, con el titulo de Nueſtra Señora del Carmen. The royal academy of the law of the land under the name of our lady of Mount Carmel.

12. Real academia Latino-madritenſe. The royal academy of Latin of Madrid.

13. Eſtudios reales or royal colleges, viz. the royal college of San-Iſidro, founded by Philip IV. in 1626 and renewed by Charles III. in 1770. The objects of the lectures read by the profeſſors are according to their printed proſpectus as follow: viz. theology, moral philoſophy, mathematics (two profeſſors), experimental philoſophy, logic, Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, rhetoric, poetry, rules of the latin tongue, ſyntax, firſt rudiments; with a vaſt library, which is open during five hours every day.

14. Real ſeminario de nobles. The royal ſeminary for noblemen, founded by Philip V. in 1727. The objects of inſtruction under as many profeſſors are pure and practical mathematics—fortification and plans—experimental philoſophy—idioms of the latin tongue—rhetoric and poetry—elements of grammar and ſyntax—geography, chronology, and hiſtory—French—caligraphy (writing).

15. Real gabineto de hiſtoria natural. The royal cabinet of natural hiſtory. It is open twice

a week, even to the common people, and in their common dreſſes. Hence it is much frequented. I am informed that the attendants muſt not aſk or accept any thing from viſitors under pain of loſing their offices. To this was added laſt year,

16. Real eſcuela de mineralogia. The royal ſchool of mineralogy, the director of which is a Mr. Herjen formerly private ſecretary to the auſtrian miniſter the count of Kaganeck. For ſeveral years this worthy and learned man had received a ſmall penſion for taking care of the new mineralogical collections for the abovementioned cabinet. At the ſame time, being encouraged by the court, he has tranſlated the Oryctognoſia of the late Mr. Wiedemann, and was placed at the head of the cabinet in March 1798, with a conſiderable ſalary and various other emoluments as profeſſor of mineralogy, both to arrange theſe rich treaſures according to his vaſt and comprehenſive ſyſtem, and to read lectures there. He is alſo paid for travelling in the various provinces of Spain in purſuance of his mineralogical reſearches. As he is uncommonly clever and in the flower of life, it can ſcarcely be doubted, that under him in ſo rich and unexplored a country the ſcience of mineralogy muſt make great advances. The german profeſſors and the amateurs of that ſcience will perhaps thank me for informing them of his addreſs, though I would preſuppoſe, they will have too much delicacy

licacy to take improper advantage of it or make any unreaſonable requeſts, as communications of that nature are enormouſly expenſive. It is as follows: "Don Chriſt. Herjen profeſſor de la real eſcuela de mineralogia en Madrid—acudir al gabineto de hiſtoria natural."

17. Real jardin botanico y laboratorio de chimica. The royal botanic garden and chemical laboratory, with ſeveral profeſſors extraordinary, for the application of chemiſtry to arts and manufactures.

18. Real obſervatorio y eſcuela de aſtronomia y geographia-mathematica. The royal obſervatory and aſtronomical and mathematico-geographical ſchool. This academy was inſtituted by the Prince of Peace.

19. Real eſtudio de medicina. The royal college of medicine—a clinical inſtitution eſtabliſhed in 1796, with a library and a large hoſpital.

20. Real colegio de medicina, eſtabliſhed in 1795, and that of chirurgia in 1785. Lectures are regularly read there; but for the examination of candidates and for general inſpection there has been inſtituted,

21. Tribunal del protomedicado.

a. Medicine.—Three phyſicians of eminence, generally the phyſicians in ordinary to the king—three examiners—one ſupernumerary.

b. Sur-

b. Surgery.—A ſurgeon of eminence, the ſurgeon in ordinary to the king—three examiners—one ſupernumerary.

c. Pharmacy.—An apothecary of eminence, the apothecary of the king—three examiners—ſix ſupernumeraries.

d. Superior council of the veterinary art (protoalbeyterado)—A preſident—three examiners—a ſecretary.

There are alſo in Spain ſixty-one patriotic economical ſocieties, from the tranſactions of which a uſeful extract was ſometime ago made, and has been publicly announced. To ſhow more particularly their nature and ſpirit I ſhall here ſtate a few of the moſt recent ſubjects propoſed by that of Madrid, viz.

The means of planting trees ſo as to preſerve them with more certainty? Premium a large ſilver medal of the value of ſixty-four piaſtres.

How to excite more effectually the induſtry of the inhabitants of country places?

The beſt means of eſtabliſhing a foundling hoſpital, and how to improve thoſe already eſtabliſhed?

Premiums have alſo been announced—for the beſt method of cultivating a certain quantity of kermes one hundred and fifty piaſtres—for a chair made of ſtraw matted four piaſtres—alſo a large ſilver medal of forty-eight piaſtres for the beſt pair of

of ſilk ſtockings in the manner of the french, and another medal of the ſame value for a pair in the engliſh manner—another great medal for the beſt razor to imitate the engliſh—five piaſtres for the beſt binding of a folio in the engliſh manner, &c.

(L) LITERATURE.

I. Philology and literature in general.

1. Gramatica alemana compueſta para la nacion Eſpañola.

2. Coleccion de los autores principales latinos. 6 vol. 8vo.

3. Diccionario caſtellano de ciencias y artes, con las voces correſpondientes en Latin, Italiano, y Frances. 4 vols. folio, 380 reals.

4. Diccionario univerſal latino-eſpañol, por Don Manuel de Valbuena. Folio, 860 pages, 46 reals.

5. Tratado de la elocucion, o del perfecto lenguage y buen eſtilo reſpecto al caſtellano, por Don Mar. Madramany y Calatayud.

6. Elementos de las lenguas. This abridgment contains an article on the univerſal language relatively to telegraphy by ſignals and ſounds by land and upon the water. 3 reals.

7. Origen, progreſos, y eſtado actual de toda la literatura, by the Abate Andrès.

8. Intro-

8. Introduccion general al eſtudio de las ciencias y de las bellas letras. 6 reals.

9. Diccionario nuevo y completo de las lenguas eſpañola y ingleſa, ingleſa y eſpañola, by two iriſh monks, Thomas Connelly a dominican and Thomas Higgins a carmelite. In like manner the profeſſors of the oriental languages, and Heydeck librarian of San-Iſidro were alſo employed in publiſhing an anglo-ſpaniſh and gallo-ſpaniſh dictionary. There have alſo been publiſhed ſeveral grammars of theſe two languages and of the italian.

10. Apparatus eruditionis, tam rerum quam verborum, per omnes artes et ſcientias. 3 vol. 8vo.

11. Examen de la poſſibilidad de fixar la ſignificacion de los ſinonomos de la lengua caſtellana.

12. Parafraſis Araba de la tabla de Cebes, by Don Pablo Lozano, 36 reals.

13. Bibliotheca eſpañola or ſpaniſh library, 2 vols. 72 reals, by the late Don Juan Rodriguez de Caſtro, royal librarian.

14. Several tranſlations of greek and latin authors; among others Julius Cæſar de bello gallico, by Don Joſeph Goya y Muniain. It forms a magnificent companion to the Salluſt of the infant Don Gabriel. 2 vols. 4to. with many engravings, from the royal preſs, 180 reals. By the ſame tranſlator we have the poetics of Ariſtotle with the greek original

on

on one ſide, at the king's expenſe, though leſs luxuriouſly printed.

15. I muſt alſo mention ſome productions of the celebrated grammarian and polyhiſtorian J. Lorenzo Hervas y Panduro, an exjeſuit, ſeveral of which have been publiſhed ſeparately and others form a part of his celebrated work Idea del Univerſo. I ſhall hereafter make you acquainted with this work, which is in twenty-one volumes. I am here only ſpeaking of his general ſynopſis of all known languages, their differences and affinities—of his compendium of thirty foreign languages—and of his library of authors who have written grammars and dictionaries of the languages of Africa, Aſia, and America. Hervas reſides at Rome and writes in Italian; but was born in Galicia, and has his works tranſlated into Spaniſh by ſome literary friends. Pallas quotes him with reſpect in his great dictionary. It is ſaid his works have been tranſlated into Engliſh.

II. Theology.

1. Reflexiones de la naturaleza eſcritas en aleman para todos los dias del año, por el celebre M. C. C. Sturm y traducidas del frances al caſtellano. 4 vols. 40 reals.

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3. In-

3. Introduccion a la ſagrada Eſcritura, &c. 2 vols. being a tranſlation from the Latin of Bernhard Lamy.

4. Coleccion de ſermones eſpañoles ſobre todos aſſuntos y materias en general: in ſeveral volumes, as yet incomplete.

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III. Jurisprudence.

1. Teatro de la legiſlacion univerſal de Eſpaña y Indias. 28 vols. folio.

2. La libreria de Juezes, por Martinez. 8 vols. 4to. and four ſupplementary volumes called Adiciones.

3. Extracto puntual de todas las pragmaticas, cedulas, &c. en el regnado de Carlos III. and

4. Extracto, puntual de todas las pragmaticas, cedulas, &c. en el regnado de Carlos IV.

5. Extracto del derecho y leyes generales de Eſpaña, 2 vol.

6. Pratica criminal por principios contra los abuſos introducidos; por D. Juan Alvarez Poſadilla.

7. Coleccion de los tratados de paz alianza, comercio, &c. from Philip V. to Charles IV. joined with one

one more ancient of Joſeph Antonio de Abreu, in 12 vols.

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10. Manuel alfabetico de delitos y penas ſegun las leyes y pragmaticas de Eſpaña.

11. Codigo de las coſtumbres maritimas de Barcelona, by Don Antonio de Capmany. 2 vols. magnificently printed, an important work containing the ancient ordonances of inſurance of Barcelona, Burgos, and Seville.

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1. Quinologia o tratado del arbol de la quina o caſcarilla, &c. por D. Hipolito Ruiz. 6 reals.

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6 reals. This plant is called in Spaniſh Sargazo, and the author treats of its uſe in ſcurvy.

4. Cavanilles' icones et deſcriptiones plantarum quæ aut ſponte in Hiſpaniâ creſcunt, aut in hortis hoſpitantur. 4 vols. with 100 plates have been publiſhed.

5. Floræ Hiſpaniæ delectus, ſive inſigniorum plantarum per hiſpanienſe imperium ſponte naſcentium icones et deſcriptiones; in numbers, edited by the celebrated Ortega.

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La parte pratica of Linneus's botany has alſo been tranſlated in 8 vols. by the profeſſor Don Antonio Palau y Verdera.

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12. Principios de cirurgia para los principiantes.

13. Tratado teorico y pratico de las ulceras o ungas por Bell, tranſlated by Piñera y Siles, altered, increaſed, and adapted to Spain.

14. Siſtema, &c. de cirurgia por Bell, tranſlated by Garcia.

15. Tratado de la materia medica del Dr. Cullen, tranſlated with additions by Dr. Piñera y Siles.

16. Pharmacopeia Hiſpana, regis juſſu et impenſis 1794, 8vo, 15 reals.

17. Elementos o principios de medicina pratica del Dr. Cullen (his noſology) tranſlated by Dr. Piñera y Siles, with an important appendix on the Agave and Begonia.

Experiments on their effects have been made by order of the king in three great hoſpitals. The author gives a botanical deſcription of theſe plants, treats of their virtues, &c. and their dietetic and medicinal application. He has alſo tranſlated Le Roux ſur la rage, with additions. Theſe plants have alſo been made known by the following work.

Demoſtracion de las eficaces virtudes nuevamente deſcubiertas en las raices de dos plantas de nueva Eſpaña, eſpecies de Agave y de Begonia, para la curacion del vicio venereo y eſcrophuloſo y de otras graves enfermedades que reſiſten al uſo del mercurio y demas remedios conocidos; por D. Franc. Xavier Balmis; 26 reals, with a plate. It is ſaid they may be uſed with advantage in the moſt deſperate caſes.

18. Pharmaciæ elementa, chemiæ recentis fundam. innixa, auct. Franz Carbonell, Pharmac. Botan. civit. Barcinocenſis Coll. Ph. et Med. Dr. (and now member of almoſt all the ſpaniſh ſocieties), 4to, 16 reals.

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21. Tratado elemental de chimica por Lavoiſier, tranſlated by Muñaroz, 2 vols. 8vo.

22. Elementos de chimica por Chaptal, tranſlated by Lorente. Elem. de hiſt. natural y de chimica por Fourcroy, probably by the ſame.

23. Tratado completo de la flebotomia por Del Valle.

24. Cirurgia forenſe general y partic. 2 vols. 8vo.

25. Ad-

25. Advertencias critico-medicas, por Sanchez.

26. Curſo completo de anatomia del cuerpo humano por Dr. Bonells, &c. 8vo. 2 vols. have appeared.

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28. Breve inſtruccion ſobre el modo de conſervar los niños expoſitos, por Garcia.

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31. Diſſertatio epiſtolaris circa inventionem pulſus antidicroti tanquam veri ſigni futuram diarrhæam demonſtrantis, in proſecutionem inventi pulſifici Solani.

32. Inſtruccion breve y metodica ſobre el conocimiento y curacion de todas las enfermedades venereas, tranſlated from Fritze by Lavedan.

33. Experimentos acerca de la digeſtion, 4to. tranſlated from Spalanzani by Bonillo.

34. Boerhaave's inſtitutions edited by Dr. Soldevilla with additions.

35. Errores y perjuicios del ſiſtema eſpaſmodico del Dr. Cullen. This is Brown's work, tranſlated by Manzano.

36. Tratado de las enfermedades periodicas ſin calentura, &c. by Fred. Caſimir Medicus of Manheim, from a french tranſlation by Garcia.

37. Memoria médico-pratica ſobre la inſolacion (or coup de ſoleil).

38. Diario de los nuevos deſcubrimientos de las ciencias ſiſicas, tranſlated from the Journal ſur la phyſique, &c. &c.

39. Reſumen hiſtorico y experim. de los fenomenos electricos, tranſlated from Sigaud la Fond by Taddeo Lopez.

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41. Petitorio farmaceutico diſpueſto per el real Protomedicado.

42. Tratado de las enfermedades mas principales agudas y cronicas del pecho by Dr. Corbella y Fondevilla.

43. Elementos de veterinaria by Dr. Malats. 6 vols. are publiſhed.

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45. Plenck's medicina y cirurgia forenſe o legal tranſlated by Lorente.

46. Ele-

46. Elementos fiſico-chimicos de la analiſis general de las aguas, tranſlated from Moreau, who extracted it from Bergman.

47. Diccionario univerſal de fiſica, tranſlated from Briſſon.

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9. Nueva hiſt. univ. de todos los pueblos del mundo, will make 46 vols. 8vo.

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15. De prima typographiæ hiſpanicæ ætate ſpecimen by Caballero; Romæ 1793, contains a catalogue of ſpaniſh editions down to 1500, 4to. 12 reals, Valencia.

16. Typog. eſpañola, o hiſt. de la introd. y progr. del arte, &c. en Eſpaña by Mendez an auguſtin monk, ſold by the author.

17. Faſti novi orbis, 4to.

18. Mercurio general de Europa, liſta de ſuceſos varios acaecidos en 1757 y 1758, by De Iſla, jeſuit, reprinted.

19. Hiſt. del luxo y de las leyes ſuntuarias de Eſpaña by Sempere y Guarinos, 2 vols. 8vo.

20. Cartas en que ſe dan noticias ineditas of Arabic MSS. and monuments, or additions to Maſdean's Eſpaña Arabe.

21. Nuevo plan del celebre teatro de la Antigua Sagunta, by Palos y Navara with obſervations on diſtributing the voice, 6 reals.

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23. Sepulveda's works edited by the royal acad. of hiſt. 4 vols. 4to. 116 reals, he was cotemporary with Charles V.

24. Hiſt. de la vida de M. T. Cicero, tranſlated from Middleton, portraits, 120 reals and 190 reals ſplendid.

25. Vida de Francklin from the Engliſh.

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27. Inveſt. hiſt. ſobre los princip. deſcubrim. de los Eſpañoles by Aladera, portraits.

28. The hiſtory and philoſophical works of the ex-jeſuit Lor. Hervas y Pandaro. His whole works compriſe 21 vols. 4to. called idea del univerſo or a general encyclopædia. His moſt important work is

29. Eſcuela eſpañola de ſordomudos, 2 vols. 4to. (Inſtructions for the deaf and dumb.)

30. Carta del Ab. D. J. Andres ſobre el origen, &c. of ſuch inſtruction.

VII. Voy-

VII. Voyages and Travels.

1. Obſervaciones ſobre la hiſt. nat. &c. &c. del reyno de Valencia by Cavanilles, 2 vols. 4to. with views.

2. Reflexiones polit. y econom. &c. ſobre Aragon, 4to. by Dr. Generes.

3. Econom. Polit. de Aragon by Ign. de Aſſo.

4. Noticia y plan de un viage para reconocer Archivos y formar la coleccion diplom. de Eſpaña by Abella, by order of the king.

5. D° de un viage arquitectonico-antiquario by Ortiz by the king's order, ½ real.

6. Compendio de obſervac. que forman el plan de un viage polit. y filoſof.

7. Hiſt. de la vida y viages del Capitan J. Cook from Dr. Kippis. The voyages had already been tranſlated.

8. Compendio. cronolog. de la hiſt. y eſtado actual de la Ruſſia by Caſtillo.

9. Deſcripcion hiſtorial de la provincia y archipielago de Chiloe en el reyno de Chili by Agueros, 4to.

10. Guia general de poſtas for 1794 by Eſpinal y Garcia.

11. Relacion de la embaxada del Lord Macartney, tranſlated from Sir G. Staunton.

12. Trages Aſiaticos (coſtumes) near 90 numbers.

13. De-

13. Deſcripcion de las provincias de Eſpaña, 1 vol. folio, with a nomenclature of places, 1 vol. folio.

14. New tranſlation of Voſgien's Dict. univ. geographique, 5 vols. 4to.

15. Viage a Conſtantinopla en 1784, 4to. fine plates, being the voyage of the ſpaniſh ſquadron with preſents. The appendix contains a ſecond voyage to Cyprus and the coaſt of Syria.

VIII. Technology and the Arts.

1. Inſtituciones de aritmetica y geometria praticas, by Bails.

2. Arte del Blanqueo tranſlated from Bertholet and Decroizilles. The work on dyeing was tranſlated before.

3. Tratado pratico ſobre el arte de la tintura y reglas, &c. plates.

4. Tratado de hilar, &c. las ſedas by Lapayaſſe a Frenchman who has a ſalary for teaching Vaucanſon's method gratis.

5. Enſayo de metalurgia by Sala.

6. Memoria fiſico-econom. ſobre el mejoram. de los lienzos en Galicia.

7. Tratado de refinar el canamo. plates. A deſcription is alſo ſold at the royal preſs of a new machine to perform the 3 principal operations invented by Salva y Sampons of Barcelona, 4 reals.

8. Informes ſobre algunas producciones naturales deſcubiertas en eſtos ultimos tiempos en los dominios de Eſpaña.

9. Inſtruccion para gravar en cobre y perfeccionarſe en el gravado.

10. Deſcripcion de las maquinas de mas general utilidad, que hay en el real gabinete de ellas al Buen Retiro by the king's order.

11. Memoria y explicacion de las maquinas, &c. viz. for making narrow woollen cloths, plates.

12. Arte de medir ſierras y aforar los liquidos y ſolidos by Gonzalez.

13. Collection of engravings from the beſt paintings in the royal galleries, 3 numb. of 6 ſheets each publiſhed, 4 reals per ſheet, in the crayon ſtyle, by Navia.

14. Twelve views of Aranjuez by Carmona, Selma, &c. 200 reals.

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17. Los Gritos de Madrid, 3 reals the ſheet.

18. Comentarios de la pittura encauſtica del pincel, 8vo. The Spaniſh have acquired much honor by reviving this art eſpecially the abbé Requemo.

IX. Sciences,

IX. Sciences, Mathematics, Natural History, Astronomy, &c.

1. Viage eſtatico al mundo planetario by Lorenzo Hervas y Panduro, 1 vol. 4to.

2. Uranografia o deſcripcion del ciclo by Garriga.

3. Curſo elementar de meteorologia, 4 vols. 8vo. by Garriga, by order of the king.

4. La meteorologia aplicada a la agricultura by Toaldo, tranſlated by Galiano.

5. Memoria ſobre algunos metodos nuevos de calcular la longitud por las diſtancias lunares, y aplicacion de ſu teorica a la ſolucion de otros problemas de navigacion by Joſ. de Mendoza y Rios a celebrated captain.

6. Memoria ſobre el calculo de latitud del lugar por dos alturas de ſol by Galiano, 4 reals.

7. Elementos de aritmetica, algebra, y geometria, by Garcia. 8vo. plates.

8. Curſo de matematica para la enſeñanza, &c. by Lopez. 2 vols. are publiſhed.

9. Tratado de aritmetica numerica con principios de algebra haſta equaciones del ſegundo grado, by profeſſor Roſſel.

10. Compendio de aritmetica teorica y pratica, by Gonzalez, and a vaſt number of other abridgements of ſimilar commercial books, &c.

11. Tratado

11. Tratado teorico-pratico demoſtrado de las reglas de combinacion en general.

12. Tratado de matematicas para inſtruccion de los militares, 2 vols. 8vo.

13. Fiſica experimental o inſtituciones de la natural filoſofia, by Almeyda, 3 vols. tranſlated from the Portugueſe.

X. Agriculture, and Sciences relative thereto.

1. Lecciones praticas de agricultura y economia 4 vols. 8vo.

2. Seminario de agricultura artes y oficios, plates, 114 reals.

3. Curſo completo o diccionario univ. de agricultura, including veterinary medicine, tranſlated from Rozier by Guerra.

4. Noches de Diziembre, entretenimientos ruſticos, by Quintero, 2 vols. 8vo.

5. Tratado pratico de colmenas, o paſtoria de las abejas.

6. Sobre los abonos ſegun las diferencias del terreno, tranſlated from Kirwan (on manures).

7. Inſtruccion para paſtores y ganaderos, tranſlated from Daubenton by Gonzalez, by order of the king, price low.

8. Kalendario ruſtico para 1798, 2 reals.

9. Tratado de los granos y de la molienda de ellos.

10. El

10. El jardinero inſtruido o tratado ſiſico de la vegetacion, &c. by Sampil.

11. Reſumen del cultivo de las moreras y de la cria de guſanos de ſeda, 2 reals.

12. Arte de la cria de guſanos de ſeda, by Juan Lanes y Duval. 8vo.

13. Agricultura de las viñas, it is part 5. of No. 1.

14. Hiſt. de la agricultura eſpañola by Laporta.

15. Cauſas de la eſcaſez y deterioro de los caballos en Eſpaña, by De Pomas, by order of the king.

16. Sobre los excelentes que fueron en la antiguedad los caballos de las demas provincias de Eſpaña, by ditto.

XI. Education.

1. Exemplos morales o las conſequencias de la buena y de la mala educacion, &c. by Rubio.

2. Gazeta de los niños monthly, ½ piaſtre per annum.

3. Bibliotheca de buena educacion o el amante de la niñez y de la juventud, tranſlated from Berquin, extremely read.

4. Crianza ſiſica de los niños deſde ſu nacimiento haſta la pubertad, tranſlated from Ballexford of Geneva.

5. Metodo artificial de criar a los recien nacidos y dar les una buena educacion ſiſica, tranſlated from

from the French, by Iberti, with Roſenſtein's treatiſe on the diſeaſes of children. 2 vols. 8vo.

6. Educacion de los niños, tranſlated from Locke.

7. Guia del niño inſtruido y padre educado.

8. Enſayos politicos cientificos y militares ſobre la inſtruccion y eſtudios de la juventud que ſe dedica a las armas.

XII. Belles Lettres.

1. Mexico conquiſtada, by Eſcoiqniz. 3 vols. 8vo.

2. La muſica, by Yriarte, a charming didactic poem, 6 cantoes.

3. Zumbas, archizumbas, &c. 2 vols. 8vo. a ſatire on monks, and the old ſyſtem.

4. Coleccion de ſaynetes (farces) 8vo. 4 vols. are publiſhed.

5. Coleccion de novelas eſcogidas de los mejores autores eſpañoles. 8 or 10 vols.

6. Coleccion de las comedias nuevas.

7. La muerte de Ceſar, tranſlated from Voltaire by Urquijo, 10 reals, with an important diſcourſe on reforming the ſpaniſh theatre.

8. Diſcurſo con que ſe refuta el de Urquijo, 5 reals.

9. Arte de ſer feliz expueſto en 4 epiſt. moral. tranſlated from the German of Utz con otras dos

dos intit. La riqueza y la gloria, y El amigo de los hombres. 8vo.

10. Obras poeticas de Don Ign. de Meras y Queypo, valet de chambre to the king. 2 vols. 8vo.

11. An infinity of tranſlations of engliſh and french novels, among which thoſe of Richardſon, Fielding, Darnaud, &c. and Caroline of Litchfeld. That from the French Caſſandra has paſſed through two editions in a year and a half.

12. Idilios de Geſner en proſa y verſo, alſo his Primer navegante. 17 reals together.

13. Leandra, a novel.

14. La comedia nueva.

15. Catalina II. of Ruſſia, a play in 3 acts by Comella, author of Peter the Great.

16. Biblioteca entretenida de damas, an encreaſing collection.

17. Floriſta comica, &c. &c. an anthology. 7 reals.

This ſketch will ſuffice to ſhow the progreſs of the Spaniſh in the various branches of literature. If that nation had equal liberty to cultivate all the ſciences as freely as that of medicine, the beſt works of other countries would afford them both example and encouragement. I muſt repeat however that I have here noticed only the moſt important works; a complete liſt would have extended perhaps

perhaps to three times the ſpace. Of the dates of each publication the negligence of the journals rendered it impoſſible to give an account.

*** Moſt of the above works even the tranſlations are by men of eminence.

LETTER XXXIV.

Departure from Madrid.—The River Guadarrama.—Alamo.—Caſarubios.—Portugueſe Travellers.—A Market.—Santa Olalla.—The Alcalde.—Principe de la Paz (Prince of Peace).—The fair Fugitive.—Nocturnal Scenes.—Talavera de la Reyna.—Scenery.—Sleeping in the open Air.—Aigardo.—La Parleta.—Velois.—A pretended Demoniac.—An old Franciſcan.—Puerto del Pico.—Alpine Scenery.—Truxillo.—A Hermit.—Caſas de San Antonio.—Serranos or Mountaineers.—La Roca.—Environs of Badajoz.—Appearance of that City.—Bridge over the Guadiana.

Badajoz, May 1798.

I HAVE been performing a journey of nine days, which to me proved very delightful, ſince I was almoſt always among mountains.

Firſt day.—It was 10 o'clock A. M. when we left Madrid, and the heat was ſomewhat attempered by the weſt wind. On the height oppoſite the bridge of Segovia we once more admired the fine coup d'œuil, which I have already deſcribed. The clear ſerenity of the heavens ſhone upon the irregular and broken ſummits of the Guadarrama mountains, and the innumerable towers of the Eſcurial ſparkled amid a ſea of azure. The fields appeared highly cultivated, and the horizon was ſkirted by woods and charming hills.

We

We paſſed a ſhabby bridge acroſs the river Guadarrama, which takes its riſe in the chain of mountains of that name. The banks are flat and dreary, an inundation had deſtroyed four arches of the great bridge built of freeſtone, and above 200 men were at work repairing it. In proportion as we approached the oppoſite bank, we found extremely well-cultivated fields covered alternately with corn and vines (which laſt in Spain are left to creep wildly upon the ground) producing a very beautiful variety in the proſpect.

We ſoon arrived at Alamo, which is but three leagues from Madrid. In this part of the country the houſes conſiſt only of a ground floor without compartments within. I thought the women there very elegantly dreſſed. I ſaw them at the doors of all the houſes.

The road ſtill aſcended, the cultivation ſeemed to improve, and the ſcenery to change at every ſtep. We walked our mules ſlowly to enjoy the ſweetneſs of the evening; and arrived at duſk at the ſmall town of Caſarubios, where are ſome linen manufactories.

The poſada was excellent, and all alive in conſequence of the arrival of two carriages from Liſbon. But the travellers, who were ſaid to be emigrants, preſently diſappeared, and the portugueſe drivers became the buts of the inſolence of the muleteers. The ancient antipathy of the 2 nations now ſhowed

itſelf in ſevere railleries and ſarcaſms, and the hoſteſs herſelf as well as her daughter aſſailed them with a volley of groſs abuſe. The Portugueſe being the weakeſt party were prudent enough to take all in good part, and added much to the amuſement by their jargon, which has the ſame effect on Spaniards as that of Lower Saxony upon the inhabitants of the Upper.

The next morning I went to market, where I found nothing but bread, meat, and a few vegetables. I ſaw a woman there however who ſold goat's milk, and uſed a cow's horn as a meaſure. I was informed that in this ſmall town there was only one panaderia or bakehouſe, which belonging to the alcalde muſt augment the price of bread and render it arbitrary.

Second day.—We traverſed fine fields of maize and vineyards, but the ſcenery was very monotonous. We dined at the venta de Gallo three leagues from Caſarubios, where we found a courier, who had juſt fallen down in an apoplexy. The poſtilion had run to the neighbouring poſt-houſe for help and to receive inſtructions, and all was in the greateſt confuſion. After going two more leagues in the ſpace of four hours we at length perceived at duſk Santa Olalla in a very beautiful ſituation in the midſt of a grove. The laſt rays of the departing ſun were reflected from the church tower of the village, and cloathed the ſmiling hills in red. The

houſes are poor, but the dreſs of the inhabitants ſhows ſome affluence.

We had ſcarcely arrived at the poſada, before the alcalde came in. He was a little ſquat figure and not in his official dreſs, but wore a little black jacket, a ſuperannuated velvet culotte and a great hair net. He ſaluted us by bowing his head, and ſeated himſelf with great gravity in the only vacant chair. While ſupper was preparing, we had called for ſome wine, which is excellent at this place, and took the liberty of inviting him to partake of it. He accepted our offer, though without relaxing in the leaſt of his gravity, but began to aſk us eagerly for news; which cauſed the converſation to turn on the Prince of Peace, whoſe diſmiſſal or diſgrace then occupied the attention of all Spain. Immediately on this ſubject being ſtarted all the arrieros (muleteers) who were preſent collected round our table, and every one of them furniſhed ſome new anecdote or obſervation. This convinced me, that even among the lower orders there is not now ſo much indifference to public affairs as formerly.

The opinions and conjectures in which people indulged relative to the Principe de la Paz (or Godoy, which is his family name) were equally bold and various. According to ſome his connection with an opera ſinger had excited the jealouſy of his new wife and of his former patroneſs: it was intended to ruin him by degrees, and at

length to remove him intirely. Others ſaid his fall was effected by the engliſh party, to which as is well known his former patroneſs and his confeſſor belonged, becauſe Godoy would not in a certain affair yield to reaſons of ſtate. A third party aſſerted boldly that he had reſigned ſpontaneouſly to avoid committing himſelf with theſe two parties. Others pretended to know for certain, that Godoy and his patroneſs had together formed a grand plan, that Godoy had been removed through diſtruſt, &c. By this it at leaſt appears how much the opinions of Madrid, be they what they might, intereſted the lower claſſes.

It was growing late, when another muleteer arrived with a young and beautiful woman, who over her veil wore an immenſe round hat like that of a man. We learnt, that ſhe had been conſigned to the care of this arriero by the alcalde del barrio at Madrid, and that he was ordered to conduct her to Badajoz. She appeared in deep affliction, took only a little bread and wine, and begged as a favour that ſhe might go to bed. She was ſhown into a ſmall room that looked into the inn-yard, where the muleteer locked her up and put the key in his pocket.

It was about midnight, when the joyous company began to think of retiring, and the muleteer opened the door to ſee if his priſoner was ſafe: but ſhe had diſappeared. Immediately there was a general

a general alarm, the mules were taken out of the ſtable, and every one was in motion to purſue her. The unfortunate guardian already imagined himſelf a priſoner in the fortreſs of el preſidio.

Three hours had elapſed, and I trembled almoſt involuntarily for the fate of the fair fugitive, when the hoſtile troop returned with her in triumph. She had loſt her hat and veil, her clothes were covered with mud, her face and hands bloody, and ſhe burſt into tears, exclaiming every moment, "'Tis the other that betrayed me."

The little ſquat alcalde now appeared barefoot in his nightcap, but with his black cloak and white wand as a mark of his authority, and immediately began to draw up a full ſtatement of the affair. The unfortunate priſoner had made her eſcape out of a ſmall window into the inn-yard, and having ſcaled the wall by means of a ſmall plank, had taken the road to Madrid, but perceiving ſhe was purſued ſhe had climbed a tree. One of her purſuers had perceived her among the branches, but a few pieces of money purchaſed his ſilence. She afterwards endeavoured to conceal herſelf among the buſhes, but fell into a ditch, where ſhe was found by the dogs ſent out after her.

As ſoon as the alcalde heard money mentioned, he ordered the muleteer under the ſevereſt penalties to deliver it up to him, and taking three fourths of it for his fees, he reſtored the remainder to the

priſoner, who then began to relate her ſtory. She had left an old huſband at Badajoz to go and live at Madrid with her gallant, where after ſome months ſhe had been arreſted. "No," cried ſhe, "I would rather put an end to my exiſtence, than live with that brute." Her grief rendered her voice ſo affecting, and ſhe wept ſo bitterly, that every one almoſt forgave her.

Meanwhile this adventure proved prejudicial to our intereſt. Our mules had been ſo haraſſed in the purſuit, that it was not prudent to proceed, and one of them required to be bled. We therefore ſaw the priſoner ſet off at noon under the conduct of an alguazil, but ſhe was ſo exhauſted with fatigue, that ſhe could ſcarcely ſit on the mule, though ſhe had a woman's ſaddle with a cuſhion. All the village accompanied her for half a league, and ſeveral woman offered her refreſhments.

Third day.—The next day our mules were ſufficiently reſted to proceed on our journey. The road was planted on each ſide with olives in long files, between which were fields of wheat. We afterwards paſſed the river Alberca over a very fine bridge of eight arches. It was fordable and interſected by an infinity of ſmall ſands. In the afternoon the ſcenery aſſumed a new character; we ſaw a great quantity of cork trees, and in the diſtance mountains covered with ſnow. At length we arrived at Talavera de la Reyna, a town ſurrounded by

by a very rich country and beautiful avenues of trees. The ſmiling interior of the country ſhows that it anciently enjoyed a degree of affluence which it ſtill retains. For the firſt time ſince our departure from Madrid we here found white bread, and generally ſpeaking an excellent poſada, where we took in a ſtock of proviſions, that we might not be in want during the following 24 hours, the road being little frequented.

Fourth day.—From Talavera we turned to the left, and rode almoſt the whole day along paths, that meandered among orchards and delightful flowery meadows. At noon we dined in the ſhade under cork trees and lofty evergreen oaks (encinas) while our mules paſtured in the meadow. The ſky was perfectly ſerene, and the air ſeemed to aſſume a milder temperature in proportion as we approached the mountains.

In the afternoon we ſaw upon a height a monaſtery with ſeveral terraces planted with tufted olive trees. The garden was ſtudded with innumerable colours, the orange trees were at once loaded with fruit and with bloſſoms, the perfumes of which ſweetly ſcented the air, all the fields around were covered with high and luxurious corn; every where we beheld the moſt beautiful verdure, but on examining it cloſer we only ſaw brambles and aromatic fruitleſs plants.

As

As we could not hope to meet with an inn that night, we lay down in a fine meadow ſurrounded on all ſides with hills and woods, and ſo full of odoriferous ſhrubs, that at firſt they ſeemed to exclude all acceſs to it. We lighted a good fire, cooked our proviſions, and the bota circulated freely. We then covered ourſelves with ſome woollen coverlets we had brought: the night was warm and moonlight, and having tied our mules by the leg we gave ourſelves up to ſleep.

Fifth day.—After riding two hours we came to Aigardo, the firſt ſmall town in the province of Eſtremadura. The bad cultivation of the adjacent country announced a wretched place, for ſuch we found it. It was Sunday, and we could not avoid going to maſs. Moſt of the inhabitants were ill dreſſed and dirty, only a few having clean ſhirts, which ſeem here to be a kind of luxury. The men had no jackets, nor the women any corſets, their whole dreſs conſiſting of a cloak or a veil, which covered their ſhirts and ſhifts. A few of them ſat upon worm-eaten benches, but the majority ſquatted down upon the pavement. Such indeed is almoſt every where the condition of mankind. I obſerved that the men wore blue cloaks and the women red petticoats.

An hour after we left Aigardo, the country appeared better cultivated, and the elegant dreſs of the

the inhabitants of La Parleta about an hour's ride further formed no ſmall contraſt with the mean habiliments of the neighbourhood. The men wore dark brown culottes, red jackets and ſtockings, and black velvet caps, the women black petticoats, red or green corſets, and white veils. The village however was ill built. Here and there we ſaw at the windows a kind of cork box which ſerved as a cradle for children. Since we left Madrid we had not till now met with good drinkable water, and we bought excellent goat's-milk cheeſes at about 6d. a pound.

The road now began to aſcend, and the mountains were very near us. We arrived in an hour and a half at Velois, a place ſituated at the foot of the mountains, where we found a multitude aſſembled round a pretended demoniac.

The poſſeſſed was a ſtout girl of about 18, but very plain and almoſt naked. She was locked up in a room on the ground floor, the windows being barricadoed with ſtrong bars, againſt which almoſt the whole village was preſſing. She lay upon the ground, and ſeemed to be talking with her lover; ſometimes ſhe darted forward, as if ſhe would have ſeized ſomething, then fell down again upon the ground ſcreaming aloud. Her mouth foamed, and all her motions were convulſive. The curate of the place had already had recourſe to relics, holy water, the hoſt, and the crucifix; in ſhort he had performed

performed a complete exorciſm; but the ſlighteſt view of the unfortunate girl ſhowed, that ſhe was only under the influence of the diſeaſe called œſtromania.

At length we left this melancholy ſight, and entered on ſteep and dreary paths, where we had charming views of valleys and other mountains. After three hours riding we arrived at Almaraz, a ſmall town, the inhabitants of which received us with great hoſpitality. The curate of the place, who was a franciſcan, invited himſelf with the utmoſt freedom to ſupper, and our excellent wine inſpired him with much gaiety. He had attended the army as almoner in the laſt campaign againſt France, and aſſured us he had more than once ſeen ſaint Iſidorus in the ſhape of a ſmall cloud at the head of the army. To avoid giving pain to this good man, who ſeemed to ſpeak from his heart, we did not appear to doubt the fact, and only made a few obſervations en paſſant on the unfortunate iſſue of that war; nor was it without aſtoniſhment, that we heard the good curate attribute it to the ſins of the queen.

Notwithſtanding the cordial reception our hoſt gave us, it was impoſſible for him to ſupply us with beds, and we were obliged to paſs the night upon benches, where our ſleep was more than once interrupted by the ſeguedillas of the young amoroſos of the place; and I may boldly aſſert, that in the

ſmall

ſmall towns and villages not a night paſſes without a dozen of theſe ſerenades. This ancient cuſtom of the Moors ſeems to have continued in all its force even in the ſmalleſt villages. The next morning at our departure the good old franciſcan came to bid us adieu, and taking from his large ſleeves half a dozen oranges and a pidgeon, begged our acceptance of them. We returned his politeneſs by a few cigars, and parted after a very chearful breakfaſt with mutual benevolence.

Sixth day. — After an hour and a half's riding, and after paſſing the Tagus, we entered at laſt into the defile called Puerto del Pico, which again tranſported us as it were into Switzerland. The rocks were covered with tall myrtles and lavender, and the ſides of the hills and valleys exhibited ſmall fields and huts interſperſed here and there. The air was as pure as on the Alps, but milder and more balſamic. We left the ſmall village called Caſas del Puerto, and arrived acroſs ſteep rocks covered with verdure by an infinite number of windings and interminable paths at Xaraizexos ſituated upon the ridge of the mountain. From the balconies of our poſada we enjoyed the delightful proſpect of the lower valleys, which were embelliſhed by the laſt rays of the departing ſun. The whole of the ground in front of the village was full of herds of goats, and at ſupper we had rabbits for the firſt time.

Seventh

Seventh day.—We entered among the mountains by ſinuous paths over ſteep rocks, till at length the defile ſomewhat opened, and we perceived the town of Truxillo ſituated on a high rock and reſembling a citadel. The country leading to it is a deſert, and this ſmall town contains nothing worthy remark, unleſs it be the ſquare, which is ſpacious. The inhabitants of theſe parts are ſo ſuperſtitious, that our hoſteſs refuſed to give us any dinner till we had been to maſs, though it was no feaſt-day. When we returned, her daughter a girl 12 years of age knelt down before her mother and ſaid a few paternoſters. This old woman no doubt expects by theſe acts of devotion to expiate the ſhameful impoſitions ſhe practices upon her gueſts.

In the afternoon we paſſed a beautiful hermitage ſurrounded by delightful plantations. The hermit brought us ſome wine and water, and treated us with great kindneſs and cordiality. We therefore very cheerfully contributed by a ſmall alms to the embelliſhment of his chapel; for the religious ſyſtem always adapts itſelf to the character of the individual who profeſſes it.

We had now paſſed the high mountains, and the chain terminated in a ſpacious valley. Toward night we entered upon a vaſt plain covered with ruſhes, and not being able to arrive at a ſleeping place, we determined to paſs this night alſo in the

open

open air in company with a new muleteer who had juſt arrived. After a frugal ſupper we placed ourſelves under the ſhelter of the packages of this good man, and with our coverlets made a tolerably good bed, where we paſſed the night without the leaſt adverſe accident.

Eighth day.—We this day travelled among mountains leſs ſteep, and through charming valleys, which, though often obſtructed by enormous maſſes of rock, were clothed with a tolerably fertile ſoil, and we ſaw very fine fields of wheat and rich meadows ſhaded by cork trees. Moſt of the villages ſituated among the mountains bore the appearances of affluence and neatneſs. Both men and women were well dreſſed, and the latter wore almoſt the biſcayan coſtume: we ſaw them on the banks of the rivulets ſpreading out their linen to dry. The laſt village we paſſed is called Caſas de San-Antonio. We ſaw every where the ſigns of good rural economy, and found buckets, ſeats, tables, and pitchers, of cork.

In general the inhabitants of the ſierra de San Pedro ſeemed like all mountaineers to belong to a race of men more robuſt, more gay, and more laborious than the reſt of mankind. They are called ſerranos, and there is ſomething very extraordinary in their appearance. During winter theſe valleys ſerve as an aſylum for the flocks of the neighbouring provinces, which here find a milder climate

climate and greater abundance of food. We met with several of these flocks returning to the mountains of Leon to pass a cooler summer there. They travel at most four hours in the day, and often scarcely two. The herdsmen inclose them every night in pens formed by nets, and the care they take of them is accompanied with various superstitious practices.

We now left the sierra or mountains behind us, and our road, which was bordered with odoriferous shrubs, descended very sensibly. The plain we entered upon presented to our view a vast extent of myrtle, rosemary, thyme, cistus ladaniferus, box, &c. What a waste of land, which a more numerous population might convert into fertile fields! Here we were obliged to pass another night in the open air, but provided a traveller will cover himself well, he has nothing to fear.

Ninth day.—This day our road afforded little variety, and nature presented us with the same objects as on the preceding evening. We passed a small monastery, where two monks amused themselves with setting a little cur at us, but our guide in the twinkling of an eye knocked him down with his stick, and loaded the two C——os de frayles with a volley of epithets not very respectful. These traits are not so unimportant as might be believed, and several inferences may thence be drawn. At night we arrived at the village of La Roca, which

which is ſurrounded with very fine fields of wheat. We obſerved however, that the ſolano wind had damaged the ears, and that the grain had become very ſmall. We were much charmed to find here a great many gardens, and bought excellent cherries very cheap. The inhabitants, eſpecially the young women, ſang and danced half the night, and the interior of the houſes bore the appearance of plenty. Throughout our journey we did not find ſuch good goat's-milk cheeſe; it coſts however one third more, becauſe ſay they ſalt is very dear there, and more is uſed than elſewhere.

Tenth day.—Hitherto if the country was not fertile and well cultivated, it was at leaſt ſmiling and covered with verdure. We admired the fertility of the ſoil, and only regretted not ſeeing any houſes, or any thing that bore the ſtamp of human induſtry. But the five laſt leagues from La Roca to Badajoz reſembled an arabian deſert. We ſaw nothing but dried up plants, naked ſandy plains, and not the ſmalleſt rill. It is ſaid the whole country wants water, and cannot be cultivated. This is continued as far as Badajoz, which was half concealed behind a mountain. At length we perceived that city beyond the Guadiana on the declivity of a hill. The road winds between rocks and the banks of the river, and a bridge of 20 arches is ſo united to the rocks, that the gate is made to paſs through.

The town with its ancient citadel built in the time of the Moors, and the white maſs of its houſes, which continue along the ſide of the hill, are now open, and this view produces an impreſſion by no means deſtitute of intereſt or of charms.

LETTER XXXV.

Badajoz, a fortified Town on the Frontiers of Portugal.—Elvas. —The Relation between them.—Conveyance of Merchandize.— Regraters.—Contraband Trade.—Exports and Imports.—Further Particulars.—Relations of Amity between the two Nations. —Languages.—Coins.—Deſertions.—Engliſh Regiments at Liſbon.—Spaniſh Military.—Deſcription of the Troops.—Regiments calling themſelves Swiſs.—Malverſations of the Officers.— Wretched Condition of the Soldiers.—Particulars relative to the Spaniſh Military.

Badajoz, May 1798.

THE population of Badajoz is computed at near 9,000 inhabitants; but it is not ſufficiently peopled in proportion to its extent. Moſt of the ſtreets are extremely narrow, and the houſes ſmall and crowded, though the pavement is convenient, and the houſes whitened or painted with great care.

Badajoz, as is well known, is a frontier town toward Portugal, but the works are very inconſiderable and quite in the antique ſtyle; a few new fortifications only have been added. The ſpaniſh territory extends an hour beyond it as far as a ſmall rivulet, where the Portugueſe have on the oppoſite bank a poſt of dragoons. As the long bridge acroſs the Guadiana, as I have already ſaid, adjoins the

rocks, the only road into Portugal paſſes under the two laſt arches, which extend over the bank.

The firſt portugueze fortreſs (four long hours or three ſhort ſpaniſh leagues from Badajoz) is called Elvas. The two frontier governors have agreed together to ſuffer perſons to enter on both ſides without paſſports, but this permiſſion only extends to the two forts, and not to the interior of the two countries. This convention of good neighbourhood much facilitates many branches of commerce, though at the ſame time it favours ſmuggling.

As to the regular lawful trade, it muſt be confeſſed, that ſince the laſt war with England it has become much more briſk; for, the ſpaniſh navigation having been much fettered in conſequence of the privateers and of the blockade of the various ports of Spain, many ſpeculations to the colonies have been carried on partly on board neutral ſhips and partly on board portugueſe ſhips by the way of Liſbon. Frequently theſe laſt ſhips belong to Engliſhmen, who enticed by enormous profits enter into theſe ſchemes without ſcruple. As ſoon as the goods arrive, they are ſent off by portugueſe carriers to the frontier, where other carriers belonging to Spain tranſport them to Cadiz, Seville, Madrid, &c. and ſo throughout the country. Thus Portugal gains the duties inwards and outwards, and at the ſame time employs her ſhipping,

and Spain alſo enjoys at leaſt ſome advantage, coſt what it may.

The fruit, vegetables, and cheeſe which the Portugueſe bring to Badajoz conſtitute a ſmall branch of trade, which becomes conſiderable, becauſe it is uninterrupted. The environs of this town are either entirely waſte, or ſolely devoted to corn, and ſcarcely are a few gardens ſeen there adjoining to the monaſteries. But the Portugueſe cultivate their frontiers better, and produce abundance of oranges, figs, lemons, cherries, all ſorts of vegetables, goat's-milk cheeſes, turkeys, pidgeons, &c. Beſides this a monthly market is held at Elvas, at which the inhabitants of Badajoz buy whole cargoes of oranges, and re-ſell them to a great profit at Madrid. The largeſt and fineſt are ſold for 12 reals a hundred at moſt, which makes nearly 20 groſchen of ſaxon money.

The contraband trade carried on here is both an import and an export trade. The articles, the exportation of which from Spain is prohibited, are piaſtres, corn, oil, pigs, and borricos; but addreſs and bribery render every thing poſſible. The piaſtres are concealed between iron plates, which are packed up in boxes and ſent from Madrid by confidential arrieros to the commiſſion houſes at Badajoz, who have long had a private underſtanding with the cuſtom-houſe officers, and know how to forward the dollars by ſure conveyances. In

this manner in the beginning of the preſent year (1798) ſeveral millions have been exported to Liſbon, and from thence to England, which accounts for the almoſt incredible want of ready money in Spain. The corn and oil which are foreſtalled in the neighbourhood are ſent under falſe paſſports to the frontier villages, from which they are ſent over the frontiers during the night. The exportation of borricos and pigs alone is ſubject to the greateſt difficulties, becauſe no mule or aſs is ſuffered to paſs the frontier without a bond to return; but it is whiſpered that the cuſtom-houſe officers reſerve this article of trade for themſelves.

The contraband import trade is ſtill more profitable. Beſides many articles from America and the Eaſt Indies, the duties on which are overrated in Spain, tobacco, cotton-manufactures, and ſince the war all engliſh goods are objects of ſmuggling. It is well known that the king has reſerved to himſelf as a privilege of the crown the monopoly of ſnuff, and that he ſells it at one or one and a half ſaxon rixdollars in ſpecie the pound, though it only coſts him at moſt 20 groſchen or 16 pence ſterling. Conſequently the contraband trader, who purchaſes engliſh or portugueſe tobacco at ſix groſchen and ſells it retail for one or one and a half rixdollars, muſt carry on a briſk and lucrative trade. The like happens as to cotton goods, which the company trading

trading to the Philippine iſlands or the home manufacturer cannot furniſh at ſo low a price. The ſame may be ſaid of all other prohibited engliſh goods which are for that very reaſon the more deſired.

The Engliſh ſell their goods at Liſbon from 16 to 20 per cent. lower than formerly, which ſtill further excites the cupidity of the contraband trader. Hence we ought not to be ſurpriſed if almoſt all Badajoz take part in this trade, and if there is not a ſingle inhabitant that does not go to the market of Elvas to bring home ſome kind of goods. There are even great merchants, who carry on this kind of buſineſs to ſo large an extent, that they ſend whole boxes to their correſpondents at Madrid.

It is true that the cuſtom-houſe officers encreaſe their vigilance from time to time, and even make domiciliary viſits; but do not imagine it is the performance of their duty they have in view, it is merely in purſuit of their own intereſt. They muſt indeed ſometimes exerciſe their office to avoid the appearance of infidelity and keep people in fear of them, and conſequently in a ſtate of dependency. But the latter may by giving theſe officers a fourth of their duties rely upon their indulgence, provided they do this with honour: for thoſe who have an underſtanding with them can bring in their goods in open day without any one taking the leaſt notice. Nay further the inſpectors and overſeers of the cuſtom-houſe themſelves ſell theſe goods. It is

therefore a notorious fact, that the expenſes of the cuſtom-houſe at Badajoz (and perhaps of all the cuſtom-houſes) coſt the king a fourth more than the duties bring him. But though the contraband traders have ſo little to fear from the cuſtom-houſe officers, they have great danger to apprehend from the frontier guards, when the parties are unequal; for then a mortal combat enſues, and this clandeſtine commerce frequently becomes a ſource of crimes and aſſaſſinations.

From this trade however the inhabitants of Badajoz derive an affluence and luxury, eſpecially as to linen and dreſs, which elſewhere is only found in maritime places, and no where in inland parts. Another more happy conſequence of this reciprocal trade is the almoſt abſolute ceſſation of that national hatred, which is here almoſt entirely extinguiſhed. Many of the Portugueſe have eſtabliſhed themſelves at Badajoz, where they have married into ſpaniſh families, while on the other hand the young ladies of this town have been ſolicited by the inhabitants of Elvas: for if the Portugueſe of Elvas prefer the ſpaniſh women of Badajoz, the latter think the inhabitants of Elvas make better huſbands. The Portugueſe of that town therefore frequently come to Badajoz to be employed there as workmen or clerks, and a conſiderable number act as porters and ſellers of water. Hence both languages are continually heard at Badajoz,

dajoz, and the natives of both countries mutually underſtand that of the other. Beſides the pronunciation of the Spaniſh here much reſembles that of the Portugueſe, the gutturals being pronounced with a liſp, and there being as many portugueſe expreſſions uſed as ſpaniſh. Yet the Portugueſe are diſtinguiſhed by a broader jargon and a ſpecies of cringing politeneſs. Nor muſt it be forgotten, that notwithſtanding the frequent commercial connections between the two countries, the ſpaniſh coin is only taken according to its intrinſic value, which in the ſmaller coin makes a difference of at leaſt 20 per cent.

Another conſequence, but which will probably ceaſe whenever the war is over, is the deſertion of the engliſh regiments at Liſbon. It is well known, that at the commencement of the year 1797 England took into her pay ſeveral portugueſe regiments formed of emigrants and Germans calling themſelves Swiſs. Theſe were ſent to Trieſte, Ancona, Civita vecchia, and Corſica, and, when that iſland was evacuated, to Gibraltar and Liſbon. Deſertion would have been impoſſible, had not the Portugueſe aſſiſted; but the huſbandmen point out to the deſerters the mountain paths, and the frontier guards at Elvas ſuffer them to paſs freely into Spain. They even do more; for if they are muſicians or artiſts they take them into their ſervice. There were ſeveral of theſe at Elvas, when the

Engliſh

Engliſh cauſed a demand to be made at Liſbon to have them delivered up. Upon this they were inſtantly ſent with recommendations to Badajoz, where they ſoon found employment.

It will therefore not ſeem matter of ſurpriſe, if I ſay that they are ſeen to arrive here by dozens. The regiments were made up of vagabonds, of the common people, and of the wretched victims of fraud, who from various motives ſeek to recover their liberty; and they all join in complaining of the barbarous treatment of the engliſh officers. As they arrive almoſt always nearly in a ſtate of abſolute wretchedneſs, a picket of walloon guards from Madrid, has been poſted here, who without difficulty entice them into a new ſlavery for the moſt trifling compenſation.

As to the garriſon of Badajoz it conſiſts of a regiment of cavalry and three of infantry. However unfavourable the judgment of various travellers may be relative to the ſpaniſh military, I am compelled from what I ſaw at Madrid as well as at Cadiz, Barcelona, and elſewhere, to contradict them. It is true the ſpaniſh ſoldiers cannot be compared with thoſe of Pruſſia and of Saxony, but they are not wholly without ſome appearance. They are formed on the ancient french model, and cannot be ſaid to do their exerciſe ill. Although the ſpaniſh troops, for want of habit, and perhaps alſo of good officers, have loſt their ancient reputation

tion for bravery, the ſpirit of heroiſm is by no means extinct among them; perhaps even our beſt german ſoldiers, in point of courage, may in many reſpects be their inferiors.

It is ſaid "the ſpaniſh ſoldiers are ſlow and phlegmatic."—Yet put them but in motion, and they will make every thing yield before them. Beſides, is it not well known, that political or religious motives conſtitute the ſtrength of an army?

The ſpaniſh ſoldiers wear no gaiters, no heavy cartouch boxes, no ſcanty uniform, no ſtiff collar; their hair is not tied, nor have they heavy hair-caps or three-cornered hats. Their dreſs is adapted to the climate; a round hat half turned up, a light cap ſupported by a mere paſteboard are here articles of abſolute neceſſity. They have not the ſpruce appearance of our german ſoldiers, but they have alſo leſs ſtiffneſs. They do not perhaps march with ſo much preciſion, but their movements have more lightneſs; they make leſs appearance at the parade, but they conduct themſelves equally well in the field of battle. All this is fact eſpecially as to the national ſoldiery of Spain.

As to the regiments calling themſelves Swiſs or rather the walloon guards, they conſiſt almoſt entirely of Germans, and excepting the officers there are not perhaps twenty that are either Swiſs or French. The recruiting trade carried on by the ſwiſs proprietors of theſe regiments, eſpecially the families

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of Reding, Betſchart, Rutiman, &c. in partnerſhip with their recruiting agents, which is equally diſguſting to humanity and diſgraceful to our country, can only be exceeded by their malverſations. While the recruiters are enliſting theſe wretched victims of cupidity by artifice and by force on the frontiers of Italy, Switzerland, and Germany, theſe opulent financiers are enriching themſelves with the price of our blood, and the officers deprive the poor fellows by a thouſand artifices and ſubtleties of at leaſt a fifth of their pay. They publicly ſell the diſcharges they grant, but refuſe them to the indigent, paying no attention to the engagements entered into with them. However, as there are always perſons whom they permit to purchaſe the debts they cauſe them to contract with the regimental cheſt, they poſſeſs the ſecret of perpetually poſtponing their diſcharge. From time to time ſhips arrive at Barcelona from Genoa entirely loaded with recruits, and the profits of theſe dealers in human fleſh are renewed as often as they can thus impudently impoſe upon the government. I endeavoured to ſuppreſs the indignation I felt at this traffic; but if I were to lay open the black tiſſue of their flagrant injuſtice and atrocious acts, were I amply to pourtray the horrors they practiſe, and deſcribe all the ſcenes of miſery and deſpair that take place at the barracks, you would perhaps accuſe me of exaggeration, and very few would

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be able juſtly to appreciate the accuracy of my expreſſions.

The number of auſtrian ſoldiers in Spain is very conſiderable. It is ſaid here that the French at Genoa have ſold whole companies of priſoners to the hiſpano-ſwiſs recruiters, and indigence has cauſed as many more to fall into their hands. The two new ſwiſs regiments of Jann and Zimmermann conſiſt entirely of Auſtrians, on the fidelity of whom little reliance can be placed in the approaching expedition to Minorca. In the ſpaniſh regiments alſo a third are frequently Auſtrians.

But I quit theſe melancholy ſubjects to add three other peculiarities I have obſerved of the ſpaniſh military: that the only puniſhments as among the French conſiſt of impriſonment; that the ranks of the officers are ſhown by the breadth of the ſilver lace on their uniforms; and that a general review of the regiments takes place monthly.

LETTER XXXVI.

Climate of Eſtremadura.—Badajoz.—Promenades.—Amuſements.—Wine Shops.—Games.—Maxos.—The Women.—The Canons.—The Principe de la Paz.—Manuelito.

Badajoz, May 1798.

I SHALL now communicate to you ſome remarks on the climate of this part of the country. But permit me firſt to remind you of the etymology of the name of the province *Eſtremadura;* for the climate here is in fact a perpetual alternation of the extremes of heat and cold; the days being inſupportable in conſequence of the former and the nights in conſequence of the latter: for however burning the ſun may have been, the evening no ſooner commences than the cold is moſt piercing, eſpecially at Badajoz, which is but 28 leagues from the ſea. Hence it is that throughout the year a kind of endemic bilious fever prevails here, which becomes epidemic during the heats, and is the more dangerous in conſequence of the continual uſe of oil and of bacon. At this preſent moment there are above 700 ſoldiers ſick at the hoſpital.

At Badajoz there is no public promenade. It is true a kind of alameda was begun to be planted, but

but the trees died, and were never replaced by others. Hence the inhabitants have no other reſource than walking in the evening along the ſtreets; but the ſtreets being extremely narrow the veſtibules of the houſes which are left open are lighted, and the doors full of people, which has a very animated appearance, and affords great variety. To this may be added the almoſt continual ſound of guitars and dancing with caſtanets. The town exhibits the greateſt appearance of population in the ſquare before the cathedral called Campo de San Juan and at the armory of the fortreſs called Plaza de Armas, from which laſt there is a magnificent view of the frontier mountains of Portugal, and the fortreſs of Elvas is very diſtinctly ſeen with its three citadels on the three peaks of the mountain; eſpecially when the ſun is hid directly behind the rocks. On theſe two ſpots the air is ſo cold and piercing that during the night the thermometer is frequently 10 degrees below the temperature of the day. The ſky however is ſo clear, that throughout the ſummer not the leaſt cloud is ſeen, and at night the ſtars and eſpecially the planets ſhine with extraordinary luſtre.

The great heat however gives occaſion to a very conſiderable traffic in water, which is carried on by about 20 perſons. It is brought from a ſpring at the entrance of the town upon borricos with pack ſaddles

ſaddles on which pitchers are placed. A load conſiſts of four pitchers, and coſts three halfpence; and as the ſmalleſt family purchaſe at leaſt a load every other day, and the ſolano, which frequently prevails, often renders a double ſupply neceſſary, theſe aguadores gain ſometimes in ſummer a piaſtre a day. There is alſo iced water agua de neve, barley water agua de cebada, and lemonade agua de limon, as in the largeſt cities in Spain.

The amuſements of Badajoz are by no means remarkable. They are confined to wine houſes, gaming, and the ſociety of the ladies. In no part of Spain are there more botellerias, and at leaſt one houſe to four ſell wine. It is very heady, as ſtrong as liqueur, and coſts about three halfpence the pint. As to gaming, it is purſued even in full market, ſo much are the inhabitants addicted to it. It conſiſts of a kind of pharao, of which the lower claſs eſpecially are immoderately fond. Soldiers are often ſeen keeping the bank. They gather round them a numerous circle of their comrades and of peaſants, whom they juggle out of their money by a thouſand artifices. The profits are paid according to the will of the banker either in money or ſlices of pudding, a kind of paſte made of flour, oil, raiſins, and ſaffron, which they always have ready. I have alſo ſometimes ſeen majos or fencing maſters publicly exerciſing themſelves with foils.

But

But the chief objects of attention here are the women. They are extremely ſallow, but their ſlender make and the animated expreſſion of their large black eyes ſoon cauſe their dark complexions to be forgotten. They tie their hair in ſmall treſſes with ribands, and go the whole ſummer with corſets without ſleeves even underneath their veils, and in general dreſs with great taſte; the contraband trade carried on here ſupplying them with various manufactures at a very low rate. The ladies of Badajoz paſs for great prudes, but notwithſtanding this they are not accuſed of being always cruel, and among thoſe they favour it is ſaid they prefer officers and canons. Theſe laſt have plenty of leiſure and ample revenues to enable them to be gallant; for out of 18 piaſtres a day, which their benefices yield them, they give the clerks who ſupply their place only about 8 groſchen.

Badajoz is the native place of the celebrated Principe de la Paz, who is deſcended from a family of farmers. His parents had ſold their eſtate, and lived upon a ſmall income. If public rumour deſerves credit, Don Manuel de Godoy, who was an officer in the guards, has riſen in conſequence of his perſonal advantages and of his guitar. But, be that as it may, he has not ſince his elevation forgotten his old comrades or his countrymen in general. Nor can it be denied, that in the diſtribution of ſo many places and penſions

his favour has frequently ſerved as a ſubſtitute for talents. It is however no leſs true, that *el principe*, as he is generally called, has encouraged and diſtinguiſhed true merit, and in general favoured agriculture and the ſciences. Whatever may be the judgment of poſterity, they will doubtleſs render juſtice to his good heart and honeſt intentions, nor will his memory be ſtained by any odious action. "Manuelito es bueno," Little Emanuel is a good fellow," is a common expreſſion of the old women of Badajoz, eſpecially his nurſe, to whom he gives a penſion, and who remembers him with the moſt affectionate tenderneſs.

LETTER XXXVII.

Departure from Badajoz.—Harveſt.—Almendral.—Los Santos.—Fuente de Cantos.—Entrance into Andaluſia.—Santa Olalla.—Ronquillos.—Approach to Seville.—Entrance into it.—Triana.—Bridge of Boats.—Mode of lighting the Town.—Advantages of Seville.—Advice to Travellers.—Promenades.—The Guadalquivir.—Anales de Sevilla.

Seville, June 1798.

I LEFT Badajoz in company with a worthy ſpaniſh nobleman, Don Luis de Mendoza, colonel of the regiment of Seville, whoſe character and accompliſhments I ſhall ever remember with friendſhip and regard.

The continual prevalence of the ſolano had forwarded the harveſt, though it had injured the crops, and we ſaw the country people every where buſily employed in getting in the corn, which they cut with ſickles indented like a ſaw. It is threſhed by making ſix mules tied abreaſt walk over it in a circle. The reapers of both ſexes, who remain throughout harveſt-time day and night in the fields beneath this ſerene ſky, with their numerous fires and their nocturnal ſongs, had the appearance of a truly patriarchal feaſt. We paſſed amid theſe *airas* to the ſmall town of Almendral three leagues

from Badajoz, and there dined. We afterwards traverſed a wild and mountainous country during five leagues to Los Santos, another ſmall town, where the cultivation begins to aſſume a better appearance. I was ſomewhat ſurpriſed to find here the little creaking carts and the coſtume of Biſcay; but the tops of the houſes thatched with reeds ſoon reminded me I was in Eſtremadura. The wine began already to be ſweeter and deeper coloured, but inſtead of beds we were obliged to ſleep on leaves of maize, upon which we extended our mattreſſes.

Second and third days.—Our ſecond day's journey of eight leagues brought us to Fuente de Cantos, a tolerable town with a caſtle pretty well adapted for the lord of the place, but which was as deſerted, as the country we had to paſs was parched and barren. We ſlept at Monaſterio, a poor dirty village, and the next day entered the lower part of the Sierra Morena and ſoon after the province of Andaluſia.

Here every thing aſſumed a new appearance. The men wore ſheep-ſkins with the wool on for culottes, and large white round hats; the women light green petticoats, with green ribands and hats of various colours adorned with a quantity of ribands. We ſaw carts of lattice work with wheels as high as the body. They were drawn by oxen adorned with paper ribands of different colours.

Every

Every thing in the houſes aſſumed an appearance of greater affluence and comfort, and we could not avoid perceiving the induſtry of the inhabitants in the cultivation of the ſoil.

We now paſſed through the ſmall village called Pueblo del Conde, and two leagues farther we arrived at Santa Olalla, a conſiderable village in the Sierra. The face of the country is flat and tolerably ſmooth in this part. We found wine and proviſions there in abundance, and a much more active race of people than in Eſtremadura. We afterwards paſſed along a magnificent road over the lower Sierra, which was covered with firs and aromatic plants. At length after a journey of ſeven ſpaniſh leagues we arrived at the extremity of the plain at a place called Ronquillos. Both the inn and the town bore the ſtamp of andaluſian neatneſs, and the thriving circumſtances obſerved in that province. Here we ſaw the proceſſion of the roſario, which was accompanied by muſic, after which muſkets were fired and the inhabitants danced voleros.

It was about three in the morning when we ſet off. We found the air charmingly cool, and breathed that of the ſea, the neighbourhood of which was very perceptible. Our whole road as far as Seville, a diſtance of ſix leagues and a half, paſſed over a fertile plain interſperſed with ſmall hills, which aſſumed every moment a more ſmiling appearance. The plantations of olive trees, where the ſtone-fences

round the young trees reſemble baſket work and have a very ſingular effect, the fields of corn, the vineyards, melons, monaſteries with terraſſes covered with lemon and fig trees, woods of cork, and extremely populous hamlets, formed a pleaſing and varied proſpect. On each ſide of our road was a hedge of aloes, which were ſcarcely diſtinguiſhable on account of the duſt that covered them, and the heat that rendered them languid. Their ſtems were low and without flowers, but to an inhabitant of the north the view was not unintereſting.

Thus having paſſed through an infinite number of turnings and windings, and ſeen innumerable charming ſpots, we at length approached the great and celebrated city of Seville. At a diſtance its grand and various piles of building and its gilded ſpires in the midſt of an extenſive plain form a highly pleaſing object. We ſaw the magnificent carthuſian monaſtery, the garden of which is filled with a vaſt number of american plants in flower, and at length arrived at the ſuburb Triana, a part of the town which its broad ſtreets and its magnificent houſes render very ſtriking.

This ſuburb is ſeparated from the town by the Guadalquivir (pronounced Quaalquivir), but is connected with it by a broad bridge of boats 400 paces long. At the bottom of the parapet, which is very neatly painted green, are groteſque half-length figures

figures repreſenting Moors, and above are the images of ſeveral ſaints and of the virgin. There are ſeats on each ſide the bridge, and at the ends are large boats in which are receſſes.

Seville is ſituated along the banks of the river on a fine plain, and contains 70,000 inhabitants. The ſtreets are ſo narrow, that carriages can ſcarcely paſs, but the houſes are in general well built within and very clean both within and without. To ſupply the place of lanterns and create currents of air, it is the cuſtom in ſummer to keep open the houſe doors, which look to well-lighted apartments; but in winter the ſtreets are lighted; a cuſtom which the low price of oil ſeems to have facilitated.

In general at Seville the favourable idea we have formed on entering Andaluſia is confirmed, and a certain degree of affluence and refined neatneſs may be obſerved in the moſt trifling particulars. The waterſellers have little ſtalls, which they adorn with branches of orange and lemon trees, or parade the ſtreets with pitchers of yellow clay of an elegant form, which they carry about in wheel-barrows made on purpoſe. The more eaſily to fill their large glaſſes, there are two reeds to each pitcher, the one to admit the air, that the water may more freely paſs through the other; a peculiarity not ſeen among the aguadores of Ma-

drid. These men also carry at their side a tin box with aniseed comfits, of which they offer a spoonful to those who purchase their water without any addition to the charge, which is an ochavo the glass. I mention these trifles in confirmation of what I have said of the general affluence and neatness of the place.

Seville in preference to all the cities and towns of the same order in Spain affords the means of living cheap and comfortably. I have already met with early grapes, figs, and melons, which are bought for an ochavo a pound. The market, which is covered with tents, and the stalls of the bread and meat markets, both in the city and suburbs, are abundantly supplied with provisions even at night. The bread here is still whiter and lighter than at Madrid; it combines all the advantages of the french and spanish processes, and costs a penny or five farthings a pound. The white wine as well as the red is excellent, and sells for about five farthings a quart. House rent is not dear, and for three piastres a month you may have a good apartment. The prices of other articles are in proportion. In my opinion to a foreigner who wishes to learn the language Seville is the pleasanteſt and least expensive residence. It is true the andalusian dialect has a singular accent and several defects, as for instance the sibillation of the *s* (cecear), but the great proportion of well informed people there

and

and the other advantages of Seville outweigh theſe objections.

Among theſe advantages may be reckoned the chearful promenades as well in town as along the banks of the river. The chief alameda conſiſts of five long rows of tufted elms watered by ſmall channels, beſide which are fountains and ſeats. Theſe avenues are adorned with two large obeliſks at each extremity, and the row of lamps which runs along on each ſide renders this much frequented promenade very charming even at night.

But the banks of the Guadalquivir are no leſs pleaſing. This river, which is very low, glides ſlowly along above the town, and is full of ſand banks: yet it bears ſhips of 80 to 100 tons burden, though ſince the war with England neither large nor ſmall ſhips come here. In this part are ſeen beautiful women on fine horſes riding beſide their cortejos and bucks driving whiſkies, half ſpaniſh half engliſh, beſide the heavy equipages of the canons. Here alſo the faſhionable belles of Seville aſſemble to breathe the ſea air, or view the bathers who without ceremony or precaution plunge naked into the ſtream. And here night often throws her veil over ſcenes, for which the heat of the climate too often affords ſome excuſe, becauſe the manners of the country inſpire the fair ſex with all the boldneſs of ours.

You will find numerous printed accounts of the curioſities and trade of Seville. I ſhall only obſerve

that the ſnuff manufactured here has a very pungent ſmell, and that with ſome winds the effluvia extend above a league. The manufactory reſembles a fortreſs; for it is ſurrounded with walls and ditches: it has two draw-bridges, only one of which is uſed for entering. No veſſels are now ſeen here but ſmall portugueſe tranſports, which the engliſh privateers ſuffer to paſs. This is the only channel by which a few american goods are ſtill received, eſpecially tobacco, which is ſent in larger veſſels to Liſbon, and there reſhipped for Seville as portugueſe property.

Thoſe who are deſirous of knowing the hiſtory of this city will read with advantage the celebrated work intitled "Anales de la ciudad de Sevilla," 4 tomos, 1796 and 1797, Madrid: ſold by Alonſo, Calle de la Concepcion Geronima. It contains a table of the moſt important enterpriſes undertaken by this nation from the middle of the fifteenth century to the end of the ſeventeenth.

[I cannot however omit a peculiarity ariſing from the extreme heat during the ſummer months, Seville being then perhaps hotter than any other large city in Europe. Hence the richer inhabitants who during eight months of the year live in their upper ſuit of rooms which ſurround three or four quadrangles then remove into the lower ſuit of apartments and transfer thither all their furniture and drapery. Theſe rooms which in the merchants' houſes are uſed during the remainder of the year

as

as warehouſes are connected by large door-ways. Theſe are open except being hung with double ſets of white drapery, which produce a pleaſing effect and agreeably fan the air.

The principal patio or quadrangle is ſurrounded by a light and beautiful colonnade of mooriſh architecture and covered with a vaſt ſheet of ſail-cloth, which is drawn aſide during part of the night and under the awning in ſummer the tertullas or evening converſazioni, are received, or the female figures in light white drapery are ſeen ſitting in cut-down ſummer chairs interſperſed amid the ſhrubberies and fountains with which the centres are adorned, or later in the evening enlivened with the brilliancy of three-branch lamps ſtanding about on the ground.

Of the three other patios one is the garden, one for domeſtic purpoſes, and the fourth reconciles (on entering) the regularity of the houſe with the extreme irregularity of the labyrinthic ſtreets.

The effect of theſe internal arrangements is ſo great a degree of coolneſs, that on coming out into the ſtreet you ſeem to be entering an oven.

*** Theſe particulars eſcape moſt travellers, becauſe they avoid being at Seville during the hot months.]

LETTER XXXVIII.

Two Routes to Cadiz.—Barco de Carga.—Night.—Banks of the Guadalquivir.—San Lucar de Barrameda.—Sentinels.—Wine.—Present State of that Place.—Arrangements for our Departure.—Road to Cadiz.—First Appearance of the Bay.—Second View of the whole Town of Cadiz.—Puerto de Santa Maria.—Feluccas.—Paſſage acroſs the Bay.—Spaniſh Fleet.—Scenery.—Arrival.

Cadiz, July 1793.

FROM Seville to this place by land is about 13 german miles. It is therefore more advantageous to go by water, becauſe during peace ſmall tranſports ſail down the river almoſt every day. Thoſe who are ſubject to ſea-ſickneſs may go by land from San Lucar de Barrameda, which is at the mouth of the Guadalquivir, or from Puerto de Santa Maria, and from thence come down to the bay of Cadiz. It is alſo the route we muſt take in time of war, becauſe the Engliſh then obſtruct the navigation.

You may ſet off for San Lucar at any hour, as there are always a vaſt number of barcos or boats. I would not however adviſe a foreigner to make uſe of the common paſſage-boat called barco de ver, if he can afford to hire one for himſelf, or can go in a barco de carga. The common price for the paſ-

ſage

ſage with a trunk or portmanteau is one or two piaſtres; for you muſt not mind the enormous demands the boatmen at firſt inſiſt on.

I took my paſſage in a boat of this kind, barco de carga, which went off with the tide at ten o'clock at night. The company conſiſted of two men with their wives, and an old officer with his houſe-keeper. A ſofa or couch was prepared for us with mattreſſes, &c. but we felt little inclination to lie down notwithſtanding the conveniences for that purpoſe, and the night paſſed in laughing and ſinging. Good wine inſpired us with good humour, and the andaluſian fair indulged in all their natural gaiety. We were obliged to caſt anchor about two o'clock and ſoon after aurora began to gild the ſmiling fields around.

It was a charming ſight. On every ſide the eye repoſed on vineyards, corn, olive trees, orange, lemon, and fig trees, and an infinite quantity of melons and other vegetables. In the diſtance were hills adorned with the moſt charming woods, on turning round we ſaw the towers of Seville, and in the back ground the blue mountains of the Sierra Morena. Above the watery plain the azure of the heavens changed to a fine green, while a pure and balſamic air charmed and refreſhed the ſenſe.

After ſeven o'clock we had advanced a little farther with the ebb, and again caſt anchor toward noon,

noon, ſo as to dine on ſhore. The whole bank was covered with melon beds (melonares), and we bought for a few ochavos the fineſt ſandìas or water-melons, which in Andaluſia alone arrive at maturity. The fields are watered by holes dug on the edge of the banks, ſo as to fill during high water, after which it is drawn out by a kind of pump, and diſtributed through ſmall channels.

We paſſed our fieſta beneath olive trees, and at four o'clock purſued our voyage: but the river, which here forms two iſlands, becoming broader and broader, the women in about an hour and a half became ſea-ſick. I obſerved indeed that the waves were as high as at open ſea with a pretty freſh breeze. At length we deſcried San Lucar, about eight o'clock, and the ſalt-pans ſparkling with the rays of the ſetting ſun. Soon after we caſt anchor in a ſhallow; from whence we were carried aſhore on the ſhoulders of ſome fiſhermen.

It is an ancient cuſtom of Seville to leave all paſſengers here, although San Lucar is three leagues from Cadiz: but the boat-owners fear the violence of the currents at the mouth of the river, and never venture farther for any price whatever. Having therefore pacified the avidity of the cuſtom-houſe officers with a few piecettes, we continued our way along the ſandy ſhore, and found ſentinels every ſcore paces. This precaution ought to pre-

vent

vent ſmugglers from attempting to land; but the ſoldiers find it more advantageous to accept a few reals or a few pounds of portugueſe ſnuff, than to protect the intereſts of the king and defend his monopoly.

San Lucar de Barrameda is a ſmall but pretty town with near 5000 inhabitants ſituated on the left bank of the Guadalquivir. It is famous for ſmuggling and frauds of every kind. Its foreign commerce produces a certain degree of luxury in furniture, dreſs, and the pleaſures of the table, and there is a white wine called Vino de Manzanilla, ſo called from a ſmall town ſeven leagues from Seville, which is a good deal like Burgundy. It is extremely cheap as well as all other proviſions, but this advantage cannot compenſate the injury done to commerce by the reſtraints laid upon navigation, and the total want of induſtry, which is its natural conſequence. We were ſurpriſed however at ſeeing amid houſes and ſtreets otherwiſe tolerably clean open drains, of which the ſea air fortunately ſomewhat diminiſhes the infection.

As my companions intended ſtaying here ſeveral days, and as I was impatient to arrive at Cadiz, I was obliged to hire a carriage alone. I therefore went next morning to the market place, where the inhabitants covered with large round hats and violet-coloured cloaks were walking careleſsly along, and I preſently heard ſome men who were waiting there

there with their borricos call to me. Would you believe they aſked me four piaſtres for going three ſpaniſh leagues? But I knew, that at San Lucar one muſt offer only a tenth of what is aſked, and ſo after much diſputation and noiſe we agreed upon 10 reals for each borrico.

It was about ten in the morning, but the ſea breeze ſo much attempered the heat, that I felt it but very little. Our road lay acroſs a ſandy plain unequally cultivated. However as far as the Venta del Puerto, which is half way, we ſaw fields of a better appearance, and perceived on a ſudden from an eminence the entrance into the bay, the point called La Rota, and ſtill farther the engliſh fleet.

By degrees the road deſcended, fields of corn and plantations of olive trees became more numerous, and we approached Puerto de Santa Maria. We then ſaw the whole of the bay with the engliſh fleet and a grand view of Cadiz on our right. Having ſtayed a few minutes at Puerto de Santa Maria, a ſmall well-built trading town, I haſtened to the quay to embark in one of the feluccas for Cadiz. They arrive there in three or four hours, and ſometimes in one, according to the wind, but they can only go in a certain order, for which reaſon they have numbers painted on their prows and ſails. "A Cais, a Cais!" is the conſtant cry of the watermen, and the price for a paſſenger and his trunk 4 reals. About half way over an

alms

alms is alſo paid for the ſouls of ſhipwrecked mariners.

Puerto de Santa Maria ſtands on the right bank of the river Guadalete, which falls into the bay a quarter of a league off. On all ſides we beheld a ſmiling country, and in a few minutes we got into the bay, where the levant or eaſt wind drove us forward with extreme rapidity. The whole ſquadron and Cadiz with its fortifications now diſplayed themſelves before us, and the view had ſomething majeſtic and impreſſive, which it is impoſſible to deſcribe.

All the ſhips had their flags flying, and we paſſed between the admiral's ſhip and the ſignal frigate called the Veſtal. The flags of the engliſh ſhips hung down into the water; thoſe of the portugueſe were higher. Almoſt without perceiving it I found myſelf under the ramparts of Cadiz, after which a boat took me to the ſtairs of the quay. From thence I was hurried amidſt a crowd like a torrent to the gates, where the cuſtom-houſe officers ſearched my pockets. I followed my comiſſionario, who conducted me to the ſquare through a great number of dark narrow ſtreets, and took up my abode at the Poſada de las Quatro Naciones.

LETTER XXXIX.

Cadiz.—The Bay.—Its Diviſions.—Situation of Cadiz.—Climate.—Temperature.—Summer.—Winter.—Solano.—Effects of that Wind.—Small Extent of Cadiz.—Remarkable Edifices.—Streets.—Environs on the Land Side.—Road along the narroweſt Part of the Iſthmus.—Scenery.—Plaza de la Mar.—The Quay.—The Ramparts.—Promenades.—Scenery.—Night.—Amuſements.—El Puerto (de Santa Maria).—Chiclana.—Proviſions.—Fruit.—Ices.—Want of Water.—Reſources.—Character of the Andaluſians.—Effects of the Climate.—Sea-bathing.—The Theatre.—Actors.—Voleros.—Preſent State of the Trade of Cadiz.—The Blockade.—Evaſions through Addreſs or permitted through Policy.—Foreign Merchants.—Hanſeatics.—Hatred againſt the French.—Spirit and Turn of the Inhabitants of Cadiz.—Camorra or Reading-room.—Newſpapers.—Port or Shipping Liſts.—Inns.

Cadiz, Auguſt 1798.

THE weſtern coaſt of Andaluſia is of a ſemicircular form, the ſouthern point of which terminates in an iſthmus, that extends about ſix leagues to the weſtward, at the extremity of which is the city of Cadiz. The bay between the coaſt and this iſthmus forms one of the fineſt gulfs in Europe, which at its broadeſt part reſembles the lake of Geneva between Nion and Thonon.

If you imagine yourſelf on board a veſſel entering the bay, on your left is the fortreſs of La Rota

Rota and on the right that of San Sebaſtian. On one ſide you behold the ſhores lined with batteries, on the other the ramparts of Cadiz. Oppoſite, and beyond the fort Santa Catalina (Saint Catherine), is ſeen the great white maſs of houſes at Cadiz with their flat roofs and the church towers, which ſeem to riſe out of the ſea. You then enter the ſecond diviſion of the bay. At the head and in the diſtance you perceive the entrance into the third part, called Puntalenbaya, which is defended on the left by the fort of Matargordo and on the right by that of San Lorenzo.

Having ſaid thus much, it is unneceſſary to add that Cadiz is ſurrounded by the ſea to the ſouthward, the weſtward, and the eaſtward. The ſouthern and eaſtern parts are 300 feet above the level of the ſea, and the weſtern ſcarcely fifty. There the ramparts are high and built upon the rocks, forming the external boundary of the town, though under theſe ramparts is a ſecond quay, very broad and divided into two branches, which has been partly gained from the ſea.

This ſituation gives Cadiz the advantages of an excellent air and a temperature not otherwiſe to be expected in ſo ſouthern a latitude. The ſea air, which at once refreſhes the body and ſtrengthens the nerves, moderates the heat in ſummer, and makes the winters, which are always very mild, reſemble ſpring. However hot the weather may

be in ſummer from ten till one, the afternoons are generally cool, for the ſea-breeze (mara) increaſes every hour and flows throughout the night. Thus Cadiz enjoys in ſummer the moſt happy temperature, while the heat is quite oppreſſive at Madrid and in general throughout the inland parts. But it muſt be obſerved, that it becomes more intenſe here whenever the ſolano or ſouth-eaſt wind prevails.

This wind is pregnant with the moſt ſuffocating vapours, and comes from the oppoſite coaſt of Africa. The whole atmoſphere without exaggeration then ſeems on fire, and the air every inſtant becomes more burning hot, like that of an oven. And yet this wind is only felt by its effects; for during the moſt oppreſſive ſolano the air is perfectly calm, and ſeems to have totally loſt its elaſticity.

The atmoſphere is at theſe times filled with an almoſt imperceptible vapor, but which gives to the ſky a bluiſh chalky colour, and which even at noon envelopes the ſun in a kind of haze, making it appear larger by refracting its rays. The ſea too is as calm and ſmooth as a lake, the water inconceivably warm, and frequently the fiſh appear on the ſurface and ſeem expiring with heat. On ſhore moſt animals are not exempt from its effects. Birds fly in a lower region of the air, dogs hide themſelves, cats ſeem in a rage, mules are uneaſy and gaſp for

breath, fowls are reſtleſs and run to and fro, and pigs roll themſelves in the earth. Man alone ſeems to ſuffer leſs: yet the ſolano is more or leſs felt according to the difference of conſtitutions. It almoſt always produces a violent tenſion of the nerves, renders the circulation of the blood ſlower, and excites to exceſs and to voluptuouſneſs.

Although the extent of Cadiz is very limited, yet a prodigious quantity of houſes are heaped together there, and the population is very numerous; being reckoned between 75 and 80,000. The houſes being very high and very much crowded together ſeem to juſtify this computation; but the ſame cauſe accounts for the ſmall number of fine edifices. If we except the churches, the monaſteries, the great hoſpital, the cuſtom-houſe, and other public buildings, Cadiz, notwithſtanding its great riches, contains but a very ſmall number of remarkable houſes. The greater part are of ſtone from Puerto de Santa Maria, which is brought acroſs the bay at a ſmall expenſe. The houſes being prodigiouſly high, the ſtreets, which are narrow, neceſſarily appear very dark, and make a very ſingular impreſſion, when we raiſe our eyes and ſee ſuch a multitude of balconies and ſo ſmall a portion of ſky. The ſtreets however are extremely well lighted at night. The pavement, which is excellent, is compoſed of very ſmall ſtones, furniſhed with cauſeways on each ſide, and kept nearly as

clean as in Holland. Cadiz however contains ſome fine ſtreets, among others that called Calle-ancha or Broad-ſtreet, and has beſides three large and two ſmall ſquares.

As to the ſtyle of architecture, the climate ſeems to have irrevocably fixed that introduced every where by the Moors; flat roofs with ſmall towers and plots of flowers, well-paved ſquare courts (patios), which by their neatneſs and ornaments reſemble drawing-rooms, galleries that run round it on each floor, large rooms, ſmall windows, and walls carefully whitened; all which is the character of african architecture.

The environs of Cadiz on the north ſide or that next the land preſent the traveller with a view equally ſingular and grand. During the laſt league as he arrives he is between the bay on the right and the ocean on the left. The land riſes ten fathoms above the level of the ſea, and is on all ſides laſhed by its waves, ſo that it reſembles a dike with which ſome bold adventurer has divided the waters of the ſea. You will readily conceive I am ſpeaking of the narroweſt part of the iſthmus, Cadiz being ſituated on the broadeſt. From this ſpot the eye takes in the whole bay with all its ſinuoſities and diviſions, and commands a foreſt of maſts which continues from Caracca to Cadiz, while in front is the brilliant maſs that forms the town with its ramparts and towers. On the left

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the view extends over the vaſt expanſe of ocean, in which the fort of San Sebaſtian appears to float, becauſe it is built on a ſmall ſandy ſtrip of land connected with the iſthmus but at high water inundated by the ſea.

At length the road ſomewhat departs from the ſea in proportion as it widens; but it is completely deſert till a little before entering Cadiz, where is a pretty row of houſes, a ſmall church, and to the right and left ſquare gardens adorned with green paliſades. You then paſs the gate and ſee at the extremity of the baſtions of the fort, on the right the bay and on the left the tumultuous ocean; in a few minutes you are in Cadiz. Here you behold a broad open ſpace and ſome elegant buildings, which render this road tolerably agreeable; but that which leads upon the ramparts would baniſh the remembrance of this pleaſure, were it not renewed by entering on the Plaza de la Mar.

The appearance of this opening and the various groups that fill it produce indeed a very fine effect. It exhibits a great many little booths or ſtalls, where are ſold fowls that are brought every week from Africa; a number of tables with all kinds of fiſh, among which are often ſword-fiſh (peſcado de eſpada) and a great variety of ſhell-fiſh and polypi; ſellers of lemonade and orgeat, whoſe ſhops are adorned with foliage and lemons, or little fountains

playing; water-ſellers with their wheel-barrows, and ice-ſellers with their ice-tubs; a long row of fruit-ſhops, where grapes, water-melons, ſeville oranges, and pomegranates, figs, ſweet oranges, and all kinds of fruit are piled up; ſellers of graſshoppers, which are ſhut up in braſs-wire cages to enliven the bed-rooms of thoſe who are fond of them, eſpecially the ladies; Turks barefoot, with large pantaloons, black beards, and long pipes, ſitting down and eating dates; tables covered with images of ſaints and ſailors' caps, ſmall cook-ſhops, and wine-ſellers' booths covered with ſail-cloth. To theſe peculiarities of Cadiz add a little of the tumult of Madrid, and you will have a complete idea of the Plaza de la Mar.

The quay immediately without the gate preſents an equally animated proſpect. For there a multitude of fruiterers, water-ſellers, wine-ſellers, cooks, itinerant hardware-men, and ballad-ſingers, conſtantly aſſemble. Here you ſee ſailors ſeated around a jug of wine playing at cards, another troop are dancing, a third boxing, and farther on fiddlers intermingled with porters. Some boats now arriving, a cry is heard of Al puerto! Al puerto! Every one crowds to the ſtairs, all is in motion, and every thing adds to the tumult.

Imagine alſo the effect of ſeveral hundred merchant ſhips lying at anchor off the town, the mixed multitude of ſailors from all nations, the noiſe of men

men loading and unloading ſhips: all this I ſay, I muſt leave to your imagination, for it would be impoſſible to give you an idea of this ſcene, which is embelliſhed by the view of a fleet in the diſtance.

The ramparts of Cadiz, which are the fineſt and broadeſt I have ſeen, are uſed as a promenade. On the weſt-ſide they command a view of the bay, the oppoſite coaſt, and the quay below the ramparts, where, when the ſea is rough, the waves fly up to a conſiderable diſtance. On the ſouth and eaſt ſides is the immenſe expanſe of ocean, and, as I have already ſaid, the engliſh fleet blockading the port. A ſmall part to the weſtward is bordered by five rows of elms forming four avenues adorned with elegant ſeats, and conſtituting the alameda; but the trees are ſmall and ſtunted in conſequence of the dryneſs and rockineſs of the ſoil, the ſea air, and the heat of the climate. However this promenade is much frequented, eſpecially at night. The cool ſea-breeze, the multitude of charming women, the lights in the neighbouring houſes, the inſtruments and gay airs heard on all ſides, the ſerene and ſtarry heavens, which in this fine climate diſplay themſelves in all their magnificence, all theſe charms faſcinate the ſpectator, and make him paſs his evenings very pleaſantly.

A great part of the ramparts, which to the ſouthward are ſhaded, ſerve for the lower claſſes to take their

their fieſta. Extended upon benches or upon the walls the water-carriers, porters, ſoldiers, and ſailors quietly reſign themſelves to ſleep, and half naked enjoy the luxury of the ſea-breeze. Along the ramparts is a row of houſes forming a kind of view I need not deſcribe.

I ſhould call theſe ramparts (including the alameda) the only promenade at Cadiz, if the environs on the land ſide did not afford a very pleaſing variety. It is true, the ſoil is ſo ſandy, that it is not eaſy to walk there; but the pure and refreſhing ſea-air and the abovementioned view of the bay and of the ſea attract thither a great number of people of both ſexes and of all conditions.

The inhabitants of Cadiz however compenſate the want of promenades by parties of pleaſure in the environs. They go out in carriages either to Puerto de Santa Maria, where are fine avenues and gardens, or to Chiclana near the iſla de Leon, which is almoſt entirely covered with country houſes, and commands a very fine view of the bay, the town, and the ſea. It is even the faſhion to go in ſpring and autumn in parties of pleaſure to Chiclana, which is a charming place, and offers the enjoyments of the country combined with all the luxuries of Cadiz.

In no place indeed is found ſuch a union of all the pleaſures and luxuries of life: abundance of wines,

wines, liqueurs, proviſions, reſtoratives, and all kinds of conſumable articles. The ſpirituous wines of Rota, Malaga, Xeres, Manzanilla, &c. are here extremely cheap (nine-pence or ten-pence the quart), and the beſt fruits are ſold for almoſt nothing. You may purchaſe two large bunches of muſcadine grapes for a farthing, the fineſt water-melons for two-pence, or a large ſlice for a farthing, and a large orange for the ſame price, as alſo a lima or large lemon. There are ice-cellars called neverias generally kept by Italians, where all the refinements of luxury are enjoyed; for epicuriſm is carried to the utmoſt at Cadiz even among the middle claſſes.

Yet the moſt indiſpenſable neceſſary of life is wanting, I mean freſh water, which is brought from Puerto de Santa Maria, where hundreds of barrels are continually loading and unloading. This water, is bad, containing much calcareous matter and very little air, which it entirely loſes by the heat and carriage. It taſtes almoſt like boiled water, and in addition acquires a putrid taſte from the caſk. It is true the inhabitants attempt to correct it by filtration, by mixing ſnow with it, and other means, but few people can afford all theſe expenſes; for the ice is brought from the Sierra, a diſtance of thirteen leagues, and the mules that bring it only travel by night; yet a ſtock always arrives at Cadiz regularly every other day. The common

common water is deteſtable, and to have better it is neceſſary to buy ſnow-water either from the water-venders or from the ice-cellars, where it coſts near a halfpenny a glaſs. For domeſtic purpoſes, waſhing, &c. rain-water is collected in ſubterraneous ciſterns, into which various pipes are laid; but as this water evaporates during the great heats, which alſo encreaſe the conſumption, every barrel of ſpring water coſts about four-pence halfpenny. Hence an economy is practiſed in the conſumption of water, which at firſt excites the aſtoniſhment of foreigners.

Thoſe who diſdain not to ſtudy the effect of climate on the character and manners of mankind obſerve very ſenſible gradations from the moſt northern parts of Spain to the ſouthern extremity of Andaluſia. The vivacity of the French on this ſide the Pyrenees is very remarkable; but the fire of the northern Spaniards changes in the ſouth into a devouring flame. In Andaluſia every thing bears the ſtamp of a burning climate, every ſenſation is ſtrong and impetuous, every thing tends to extremes, every thing is immoderate and without reſtraint, and above all in what regards the ſexes.

The beauty of the andaluſian women, their vivacity, their exalted fanaticiſm, their extreme ſenſibility, appear at Cadiz to exceed every thing obſerved elſewhere; but no where do the ſexes ſeek each other with equal eagerneſs, in no part do the

the pleaſures of ſenſe ſeem ſo indiſpenſable, in no part does the influence of the climate ſo eaſily diſarm the ſevereſt of moraliſts.

But it is when the ſolano blows, that this impulſe becomes moſt impetuous; for then the very air they breathe is on fire, and all the ſenſes are involuntarily inebriated; the imagination is bewildered, and an irreſiſtible inſtinct becomes authorized by example and is excited by ſolicitation.

If any thing could moderate this ferment of the blood, it would be ſea-bathing, of which both ſexes make frequent uſe. The women bathe out of the land-gate at a place appointed for that purpoſe, and the avenue to which is guarded by cavalry; but it is not uncommon for a lover to deceive the guard by means of a baſquiña or mantilla, ſo that, inſtead of allaying the paſſions, they are the more inflamed. In other parts of the town decency is not attended to with much rigidity, and I have frequently ſeen at the quays during low water young people of both ſexes bathing promiſcuouſly without any clothing.

It may eaſily be imagined that ſuch a town as Cadiz could not be without a theatre, which accordingly is larger and more commodious than at Madrid, though it makes no external appearance, being ſurrounded with other buildings. The internal diſtribution differs from that of other theatres in Spain, and approaches the french ſtyle. All the

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ſeats are numbered, and every one is obliged to occupy that expreſſed in his ticket.

Formerly there were at Cadiz a french and an italian theatre; but ſince the preſent war began, the former has been ſhut up, and the latter united with the ſpaniſh. The principal actors are Italians, whoſe pronunciation is excuſed in conſideration of the fine airs they ſing between the acts.

But what chiefly attracts the inhabitants to the theatre are the little comedies called ſaynetes, which are ſomewhat licentious, and the laſcivious dances called voleros; the former containing the chronicles as it were of ſcandal, and the latter pourtraying the myſteries of love.

When the play is ended, the ſtage is converted into a magnificent apartment, the orcheſtra again ſtrikes up, the caſtanettes are heard, and a dancer and his partner came forth from oppoſite ſides, each in the graceful andaluſian coſtume, which ſeems invented for dancing, and dart toward each other, as if they had long been ſeeking each other. The lover ſeems about to embrace the object of his paſſion, who appears ready to throw herſelf into his arms; but ſhe ſuddenly turns round, her partner half angry does the ſame, and immediately the muſic ſtops, generally in the middle of a bar. The art of the dancers conſiſts in a rapid equal and neat poiſe, and ſtopping ſo accurately together as to ſeem at once rooted to the ground oppoſite to each

each other. They now appear undecided, but preſently the muſic which begins again reanimates and quickens their motions. The lover now grown more ardent endeavours to expreſs his deſires, and his beloved receives him with more tenderneſs, her looks become more languiſhing, her boſom palpitates with more force, and ſhe extends her arms toward him. Vain hope! too timid to meet him ſhe flies off again, till a new pauſe gives them freſh courage.

The muſic now more lively gives wings to their feet, and inebriated with paſſion the lover again darts toward his miſtreſs, who tranſported with ſimilar ſenſations flies with ardour to meet him. They join their arms, the lips of the fair dancer open, and ſhe ſeems ready to ſurrender at diſcretion. The muſic now gives louder and ſtronger ſounds, a more rapid melody, and the motions of the dancers are redoubled. 'Tis a kind of intoxication of delight, and the ſame ſenſations ſeem to animate them both; each muſcle is alive, and every pulſation accelerated, when ſuddenly the muſic ſtops, and the dancers at the ſame inſtant become motionleſs and diſappear: for the curtain falls, and the illuſion of the ſpectators is diſſolved.

The climate, the vivacity, the beauty, and the agility of the inhabitants render Andaluſia excluſively adapted to this dance. You ſhould ſee it performed by a well-aſſorted couple, whoſe perſons

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are only exceeded by their talents, and then you would forget every thing of the kind you had ſeen before as tame and inexpreſſive. How can ſuch a dance, which refers ſo ſtrongly to a paſſion that animates the whole of nature, and which alone can counterbalance the ſelfiſh principle, not be preferred to all other amuſements? I am confident I ſhall gratify you more by deſcribing theſe dances than bull-fights, which are the common amuſement at Cadiz as well as at Madrid.

There is indeed a ſeries of engravings, in which in order to faciliate the learning this dance all the motions and attitudes are repreſented in ſucceſſion, entitled "Laminas que manifieſtan los varios paſſos y mudanzas de las ſeguidillas, voleros, y los trages mas propios para eſſe bayle," twelve ſheets (if I am not miſtaken), 4 reals each: ſold by Eſcribano, Calle de las Carretas, with the muſic for the guitar and voice. Alſo ſeveral other dances under the title of "Modo facil para aprender el ayre volero en la guitarra y arreglar la voz:" ſold by Fernandez and Co.

Having thus taken a view of the luxury that prevails at Cadiz, let us examine the ſource from which it flows, I mean its commerce; though the particulars given by Townſend and Bourgoanne, and the preſent ſtate of affairs might in ſome meaſure excuſe ſuch an omiſſion. The diſaſtrous war with France and the ſtill more ruinous war with England have

have for ſome years almoſt entirely deſtroyed the commerce of Spain; the fleets of Great Britain blockade her beſt ports, and engliſh privateers are inceſſantly cruiſing off her coaſts.

The Engliſh had before attempted to blockade Cadiz in the ſummer of 1797, when they found the Spaniſh quite unprepared. The confuſion and diſorder were univerſal, and without the diſtinguiſhed valour of a Biſcayan named Mazaredo, the place would have been ruined; but ſince that time the ſpaniſh gun-boats have become ſo formidable to the Engliſh, that they have not hazarded a new attack. The ſpaniſh fleet is poſted from the town as far as the iſla, and the Engliſh keep at a diſtance of four leagues to the ſouth-eaſt.

However rigorous this blockade may appear, ſometimes artifice and ſometimes policy elude its effects. As to the former, during the violent winds of the levante, which come from off the bay, and which are generally accompanied with a thick fog, the ſhips that are ready go out, and this the more eaſily as the Engliſh are then obliged to change their birth. In this manner not only ſome frigates, but about ſixty merchantmen have ſailed for America at different times. Indeed the amount of their invoices is ſo high, and the ſale is at theſe times ſo certain, that, even were two ſhips out of three captured, the profit on one arrival would cover the capital and intereſt of the two others.

As to policy, the Engliſh themſelves for fear of repriſals or for other reaſons ſuffer all ſhips from Morocco, Turkey, and Greece, to land without impediment, and theſe ſhips are employed to bring in a part of the importation required, and for ſending ſome cargoes to the various ports of the Mediterranean.

The overtures however which begin to take place between the cabinets of London and Madrid through the intervention of the engliſh party at the latter and of the court of Portugal ſeem at preſent (July and Auguſt 1798) to have a decided influence on the blockade. At this moment a daniſh ſhip is ready to ſail with a rich cargo to Hamburg; engliſh paſſports are given to ſpaniſh veſſels to go to Gibraltar to fetch the havannah tobacco brought thither in anglo-portugal ſhips, engliſh officers in diſguiſe come to Cadiz to diſſipate the irkſomeneſs of being conſtantly on board, and ſpaniſh boats fetch their linen to waſh, and provide the fleet with wine and fruit.

Among the foreign merchants of all nations are many Germans partly from Hamburg, from Bohemia, and from Augſburg. The former conſtitute the claſs called Hanſeatics, and according to ancient convention enjoy conſiderable privileges. They divide their commercial affairs into ſpeculation, commiſſion, and banking buſineſs. This is the only nation at Cadiz that keep up a cloſe union

union among themſelves, or keep a fund for the relief of their unfortunate countrymen. I will only mention here Meſſrs. Bohl brothers and the conſul Mr. Andrew Freſſer, whoſe firm is Freſſer and Springckhorn, to give you a teſtimony of the eſteem and gratitude I feel for the hanſeatic nation. The bohemian and augſburg houſes are of ſmall importance compared with thoſe of Hamburg, and, as throughout Spain, ſcarcely tranſact any other than a retail buſineſs in glaſs and hardware.

The more acquainted the Spaniſh may become with the importance of their inland trade, the more jealous they appear of foreign merchants, and the yoke of neceſſity through the change of circumſtances becomes more and more burdenſome to them. This averſion however is not ſo openly ſhown toward any nation as the French, becauſe toward no other do political and religious reaſons ſo much contribute to that effect. It ſeems indeed to be a part of the ſyſtem adopted by the ſpaniſh hierarchy to oppoſe that formidable nation by fanaticiſm itſelf. For this reaſon ſome time ago all the images of ſaints in one of the monaſteries were mutilated in order to aſcribe the outrage to the French, and the hatred of the populace broke out into innumerable acts of violence. The inveſtigation however of the french conſul left no doubt as to the true authors of the inſult.

In general it appeared to me that the whole ſyſtem of religion takes the character of the climate, and that fanaticiſm is here more impetuous and more ardent than in other more northern, and even in the ſouthern parts of Spain. Ever cloſely connected with the ſenſes it favours licentiouſneſs of manners without intending it, and we muſt not therefore be ſurpriſed if voluptuouſneſs finds its way even to the ſteps of the altar, and if the clergy publicly keep miſtreſſes.

The pleaſures of ſenſe together with fanaticiſm (or what we proteſtants call ſuperſtition) having obtained a complete dominion over the mind, it is impoſſible the leaſt ſpark of ſcience ſhould be ſeen to ſhine, or that the underſtanding ſhould receive due cultivation. Do not therefore expect to find extenſive libraries or inſtructive converſations except among foreigners. It is to them Cadiz is indebted for a ſuperb reading-room and library called Camorra eſtabliſhed at the old opera-houſe. The beſt and moſt intereſting foreign newſpapers are alſo taken in there, and there is a ſimilar eſtabliſhment at the Apollo coffee-houſe, where the beſt french newſpapers may be read at any time after the arrival of the poſt. In other coffee-houſes we only found the Correo de Cadiz or the Poſtillon del Correo de Cadiz, which contain political and commercial news and ſome other intelligence. Liſts are alſo daily printed of the ſhips that arrive

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and are worthy the notice of merchants, and at the end of the year they exhibit a general calculation or result of the exports and imports to and from America.

To omit nothing that can be intereſting to a traveller, I will mention ſimply that the beſt inns are the poſada de las Palomas near the Puerta de la Mar and the poſada de las Quatro Naciones; the former is ſuited to rich people, the latter to perſons of moderate fortune, who would limit their expenditure to a piaſtre or half a piaſtre a-day.

LETTER XL.

Departure from Cadiz.—Scenery.—Torre gorda.—Iſla de Leon.—Puerto de Santa Maria. — Change in the Scenery.—Xeres (Sherry).—Lebrija.—Ecija. —Houſes ſingularly painted.—Cordova.—Maſs.—Ventas de Alcolea.—Carpio.—Sierra Morena.—The Colonies there. — Carolina. — Puerto del Rey.—Entrance into La Mancha. — Valdepeñas. — Manzanares. — Entrance into the Kingdom of Murcia.—Fuente de la Higuera.—Entrance into the Kingdom of Valencia —Beauties of that Province.—Inhabitants.—Improviſadores.—Popular Songs.

Valencia, September 1798.

I LEFT Cadiz on the 24th of Auguſt, when we were again rigorouſly ſearched at the landgate. We gave our mules water at the great ciſtern, and ſoon entered on the narrow and ſandy road, which being to the left of the ocean the bay covers with its waves. While looking behind to take our leave of the ramparts of Cadiz, of the fort of San Sebaſtian, which ſeems to riſe out of the ſea, and of the engliſh fleet, we were ſtill able to diſtinguiſh the laſt diviſions of the bay and the ſpaniſh ſquadron.

The road would ſcarcely admit of two carriages abreaſt, and ſeemed ſurrounded on three ſides by the ocean. This is an optical illuſion, the eye not diſtinguiſhing the turn the ſea takes at Torre gorda. The ſun, which had juſt ſet behind the admiral's

ſhip, ſtill gilded the whole horizon, the bay and the vaſt ſurface of the ocean reflected his departing fires, the air was cool and tranquil, and from both ſquadrons the ſignals of ſunſet were heard.

Near the battery of Torre gorda, where the ſtrip of land joins the mainland, the ſandy road changes to an excellent cauſeway, which begins to leave the bay, and after forming an angle leads in a ſtraight line to Iſla de Leon. It was duſk when we arrived at this pretty town, which is well built, and may contain about 38,000 inhabitants. Inſtead of lanterns there is a lamp to each houſe, giving the great ſtreet, which is very broad, a grand appearance.

Iſla de Leon may be conſidered as a dependency of Cadiz, ſince it in ſome degree forms a part of its commerce, marine and manufactures. The houſes have but one ſtory, moſtly only a ground floor; but all have flat roofs adorned with vaſes and ſtatues. The poſada was as convenient, but at the ſame time as dear, as the beſt at Cadiz, and we found in the purchaſe of ſome proviſions, that the price was one third higher than at that port.

Second day.—A good cauſeway leads acroſs a marſhy bottom to the ancient bridge of Suazo, which joins the iſla de Leon (for the town of that name is ſo called from the peninſula on which it

ſtands) to the main land, from which it is ſeparated by a ſmall arm of the bay called El Canal de San Pedro. Here the eye commands the ſalt-pans, which ſkirt the whole bay, the furrows of which extending into the ſea and the huts for the guards that watch them form a very novel view. It is the cuſtom to give them pious names, as the Salina de Jeſus Maria, Salina del Dulciſſimo Nombre de Jeſus, &c.

On approaching Puerto Real, a ſmall pretty town with near 6000 inhabitants, the ground widens, riſes, and commands a view of almoſt the whole interior Puntalenbaya, and after paſſing the ſmall river of San Pedro, which is an arm of the Guadalete, we perceived the whole inner bay. We paſſed a very rough bridge of boats acroſs the Guadalete itſelf, and arrived at Puerto de Santa Maria, where we dined. This town, which is oppoſite Cadiz, contains near 12,000 inhabitants and a port which is not inferior to it in riches. El Puerto, as it is generally called, is a rendezvous of amuſement for all the inhabitants of Cadiz. A long alameda well ſhaded and a vaſt number of country houſes attract thither a great deal of company from that city, eſpecially on Sundays. Fortunately for us it was now fair time, and we found the avenues and walks adorned with booths and ſo full of life that I fancied myſelf at the baths of Pyrmont.

Hitherto

Hitherto we had ſcarcely ſeen any thing but a barren ſoil almoſt uncultivated, and a ſandy country, which ſeemed ſtolen from the ſea; but from this place the road became more cheerful, vegetation more thriving, and the view more rural and more varied. We ſaw plantations of olives, crops of corn, vineyards, fields of clover, aloes in flower with ſtems eighteen or twenty feet high, and twiſted ſycamores (hiquera atuna) with prickly leaves: the harveſt made the country all alive, and we almoſt forgot to reflect amid the riches it diſplayed, how much farther a better ſyſtem of cultivation would carry the fertility of the ſoil under ſuch a climate.

We now approached the ſmall town of Xeres, which, being ſurrounded on all ſides with hills covered with vineyards and olive trees, appears at the edge of the horizon in a very romantic point of view. According to the various turns of the road it ſeemed ſometimes in front, ſometimes on one ſide, and ſometimes on the other, and the ſides of the hills were covered with ſheep and huts. We were obliged to go quite round it, while the town gradually unfolded itſelf before us. At length we entered it by a very ſteep road. On the left we ſuddenly perceived a terrace, which ſerves as a public promenade, and which commands a very agreeable view of the valley.

The

The interior of Xeres wears the appearance of affluence; the houſes are painted white and yellow, the inhabitants are well dreſſed, eſpecially the women, and the manners of the place in point of luxury reſemble thoſe of Cadiz. The wine of Xeres ſo famous abroad (ſherry) has, when new, the flavour of champagne; when old (xeres ſeco) it becomes of a darker yellow, and acquires more body. It then coſts here about three-pence.

Third day.—On leaving Xeres the ſcenery ſuddenly aſſumed a wild appearance, the ſoil was arid and calcareous, and was interſperſed here and there with lavender. It is grievous to behold ſuch waſtes in the beautiful province of Andaluſia; but it ariſes from the unequal diſtribution of lands and the bad methods of farming that prevail.

We now arrived at Lebrija, a large but miſerable market town, all the inhabitants of which preſent an appearance of the moſt hideous indigence. Yet two leagues farther the agriculture ſeemed to grow better, eſpecially near a hamlet called Arajal, which is entirely ſurrounded with olive trees and corn-fields.

Fourth day.—The fields continued to be well cultivated, the road traverſed Paradas, and we travelled through a very fine country as far as Marchena, an ancient town ſituated upon an eminence. Without this place we ſtopped at a venta, and

and then proceeded through rather a poor country to another town called La Noriela, where we found such an abundance of water-melons (sandias) that we bought a very large one for five farthings.

Fifth day.—This day for the first time these seven weeks I have seen some clouds in the sky. The morning was dark and cool, which however rendered it the more pleasant. After passing some hills we traversed a very fertile country to Ecija, but that town, which is pretty considerable, and contains near 20,000 inhabitants, exhibits no signs of its ancient industry, except several tanneries and a numerous corporation of shoe-makers.

The houses at Ecija are painted in a very strange manner with dancers, combatants, and people eating amidst bulls, goats, and other quadrupeds mixed together on a ground of blue and red, and the whole loaded with gilding. The same profusion is seen at the public fountains and in the niches of the saints. Many modern houses are however decorated in a better taste, and the new posada of the Lion is laid out more commodiously and with greater elegance.

Ecija is situated on the left bank of the Xenil, a river of moderate size and running through fertile fields. Along the town extends an alameda, where are the statues of the king and queen on a pedestal formed by a very high column. I found also in this place venders of water and lemonade; but in the

the ſouthern provinces of Spain they are not wanting even in the ſmalleſt places.

Sixth day.—Our road lay over tolerably well-cultivated hills, and at length we arrived at a prodigious height, whence the view plunges down upon a plain, on which ſtands the city of Cordova on the right bank of the Guadalquivir. This plain, which is bordered in the diſtance by the Sierra Morena, is one of the moſt fertile of Andaluſia: but the uniformity of its ſcenery and the want of individual objects for the eye to fix upon very much weaken the impreſſion it would otherwiſe produce.

From Xeres we had the company of an auguſtin monk of Cordova, who brought us to a good poſada at the entrance of the town. But being informed that the family had been prevented by ſleep from hearing maſs that morning, he undertook to officiate himſelf. Thus we were ſcarcely arrived a little before noon at the poſada, before he cauſed the bell of the neighbouring chapel to be rung, put on his cope without ceremony, waſhed his hands, and began to ſay maſs; during which we amuſed ourſelves with looking at the curious ex-votoes or votive offerings with which the walls were covered. Almoſt all of them conſiſted of ſmall painted boards repreſenting ſick people who had been exorciſed by the prayers of las animas benditas (bleſſed ſouls), which at leaſt proves the great power

power of the imagination, when combined with a good conſtitution, over the moſt dangerous diſorders.

Our holy father after having ſaid maſs ſeemed extremely well pleaſed with himſelf, and proved, by the good appetite with which he ſhared our dinner, that his maſs had done him no harm in that reſpect. We then accompanied him into the town. Above the bridge the river forms ſeveral iſlands, and below it works ſome mills and waſhes the walls of the town. The ſmall grove of orange trees near the ancient cathedral, which is built in the mooriſh ſtyle, quite faſcinated us; for I had never ſeen ſo many fine orange trees together. They ſeemed loaded with golden apples.

The interior of Cordova every where ſhows the decline and total ceſſation of its induſtry. Its long ſtreets are almoſt deſerted, moſt of the houſes are uninhabited, and the multitude of churches and cloiſters it contains are beſieged by a crowd of vagabonds covered with rags. All the induſtry of the place ſeems confined to a few tan-yards and ſome woollen manufactures, eſpecially of mule-cloths. Rents and proviſions are very low, and the value of eſtates has fallen one half in the courſe of the century. The women have freſher complexions than at Cadiz, but they are far from being ſo elegantly dreſſed. We ſaw a numerous group with men's round hats over their veils, and coloured

loured baſquiñas: they were mounted on ſmall borricos. The patron ſaint of Cordova is ſaint Raphael, whoſe magnificent gilt ſtatue at the gate but ill agrees with the wretchedneſs that reigns within.

Two ſhort leagues above Cordova is the venta de Alcolea, a very ſpacious inn with a foſſe and a chapel, where we paſſed the night. The country around it is pleaſing: at ſome diſtance from it runs the Guadalquivir, which we paſſed by a very fine bridge, and the mountains in front are covered with olive trees. The garden of the inn is planted with fig and orange trees, and it is laid out very commodiouſly.

Seventh day.—The country was more mountainous, and ſometimes pretty well cultivated, but had a dreary appearance, becauſe the harveſt was finiſhed. We ſtopped to dine in the ſmall town of Carpio, and traverſed a fine plain to Aldea del Rio, a village on the ſide of a hill cloſe by the Guadalquivir.

Eighth day.—From thence it is two long leagues to Anduxar. The ſoil was pretty well cultivated, and we remarked in particular a great quantity of lands covered with melons and gourds intermingled with maize. Anduxar being ſituated on the right ſide of the river, we were obliged to croſs it a ſecond time. Our road lay ſometimes through a foreſt of encinas (evergreen oaks), ſometimes among

among olive plantations. At Anduxar, that eternal ſeat of putrid fevers, we quite took our leave of the Guadalquivir, and ſaw diſtinctly before us the Sierra Morena. We ſlept at a venta.

Ninth day.—The road reſembled that of the preceding day. At length we began to aſcend the Sierra near Baylen, an ancient village to the left on a ſteep height. To the right in the diſtance extend fields and woods of young oaks. From thence we arrived at Guarda romana (generally pronounced Guarroman), where we were very agreeably ſurpriſed to ſee houſes of freeſtone and well built. They are joined four and four together and have all one front. Had we not known, that this town formed a part of the well-known colony, and that it was inhabited in great meaſure by Germans, we ſhould have immediately gueſſed it: the little gardens before the houſes, the vines that adorned the entrance, the flower-pots at the windows, the arbours at the houſe-doors, the ſpinning-wheels, the form of dreſs, the neatneſs of the whole, a ſuperior cultivation, fields of oats and barley, in ſhort every thing characteriſed the labours and induſtry of Germans.

The ground ſtill roſe more and more, and the views became more varied and romantic: fields, olive plantations, and vineyards, were ſeen in all parts; the lands were irrigated by narrow ſtreams of water conveyed through wooden pipes; on

on all ſides were plenteous meadows full of cows, colts, horſes, and young mules; and at length, by a broad and magnificent road planted with poplars, aloes, fig trees, and olive trees, we arrived at Carolina, the metropolis of all the colonies on the Sierra Morena. In the neighbourhood of this place the trees are ſeparated from the road by ſtone fences. There are fountains, ſtatues, and bridges, and we ſeemed approaching ſome great city. And indeed we were ſurpriſed to ſee theſe ſtraight ſtreets and ſo large a number of well-built houſes; yet a certain air of melancholy in the general appearance recalls ſome painful remembrances.

We met an old Aiſacian, who was one of the firſt colony that came here thirty years ago. By his account the wild appearance of the country at that period exceeded all that can be conceived, and the whole was covered with thick foreſts of fir and infectious marſhes. When the ſettlers perceived, that inſtead of the boaſted land they were promiſed, they were to people a horrid deſert, and inſtead of the abundance deſcribed did not even find tolerable water, many of them died of grief within the firſt year or two, and a ſtill greater number of epidemic diſeaſes. The regret with which this old man ſtill ſpoke of his country, and the ſtory he told us of his misfortunes, affected us much, and drew tears from our eyes.

You

You will find in accounts of Spain already published the particulars of the origin and fate of this colony. I shall therefore content myself with a few observations on the subject. The king had reserved to himself all the tythes, the clergy depended on the intendant, and were paid out of the civil treasury. The intendant and other persons in office did considerable injury to these new colonies by the monopolies they established upon corn, wine, and salt. The salary of the intendants is 2000 piastres, and yet these places are considered as a kind of banishment. The population of Carolina according to this Alcacian is now reduced in consequence of the putrid fevers that have lately prevailed there to about 2000.

Tenth day.—Carolina is situated in the middle of the Sierra Morena. We travelled a league between well-cultivated fields, where the neat houses of the colonists are interspersed from Santa Elena, and we came at length to the celebrated pass called Puerto del Rey. The road winds among steep rocks covered with brambles, with an infinity of turnings, till we enter upon the plain, from which we see the travellers and carriages behind us, as if suspended above our heads. Yet notwithstanding this the road is very safe, and by a kind of prodigy it is even more commodious than that of Saint Gothard between Milan and Switzerland, to which this mountain bears much resemblance. A land-

ſcape painter would here find ſpots that would enrich pictureſque travels in Spain, which have long been a deſideratum in the literary world.

On deſcending from the ſierra we are at once tranſported into a new world. The plains, which are monotonous and extend as far as the ſight, here and there exhibit a few corn-fields and vineyards, but in general we only ſaw forſaken paſtures, and the traveller is concerned at ſeeing ruined and deſerted villages, which ſhow a want of population and the pernicious effects of too large a diſtribution of property. The climate in conſequence of its vicinity to the ſea and the more elevated level of this province becomes more rough and changeable; the remains of ancient manners and of the arabic architecture have diſappeared, the ſpires are no longer ſo elegant, nor the houſes any longer painted white; the dreſſes of the inhabitants are rough and dirty, their countenances leſs beautiful, and the women have an air of leſs affability and more indifference: the bread is worſe, but the wine is of a deep red and cheaper. In the venta where we dined we only paid a halfpenny a pint, yet it was excellent; and the ſame at the ſmall town of Santa Cruz where we ſlept.

Eleventh day.—The morning of this day we rode between vineyards, and we every where found the grapes ripe. The keepers however refuſed to ſell us any, but according to an ancient cuſtom

they preſented each of us with a bunch. Toward noon we arrived at the town of Valdepeñas, of which place the wine is eſteemed the beſt in La Mancha, and only coſt us a halfpenny a pint.

In the afternoon we found a country ſimilar to to that we had before traverſed, and where from time to time we ſaw olive plantations. We met twelve broad-wheeled waggons heavily loaded and accompanied by four-and-twenty dragoons. It was an eſcort of ſpecie belonging to the king, and going from Madrid to Cadiz for the fleet, which had been expecting it during nine months with extreme impatience.

Toward night we arrived at Manzanares, a conſiderable market town with a pretty alameda. The dragoons of the garriſon ſeemed not to have been diſagreeable to the women of this place or to have impeded their fecundity; for in no part of Spain did I ſee ſo many pregnant women. Wine and fruit are here ſo cheap, that I bought a pint of wine for a farthing and a pound of fruit for the ſmalleſt piece of coin. It is true however that the harveſt was this year very abundant.

Twelfth day.—This day we traverſed wild and dreary tracts, and ſaw neither dwellings nor cultivation, till we came to Tomello, a wretched and dirty village, where we even found no wine. I do not remember paſſing ſo irkſome a day: ſuch are the devaſtated plains of La Mancha!

Thirteenth day.—We paſſed ſeveral mountains covered with lavender, roſemary, &c. and a multitude of ſhrubs: in the diſtance we ſaw other ſierras. Toward the ſouth we ſtopped at a miſerable venta, and thought it very fortunate we had procured proviſions at Manzanares. At night we arrived at Villa Lobredo, a tolerably large town, where are potters, who make veſſels for wine, eſpecially the jugs called tinajas. The inhabitants appeared to enjoy ſome degree of affluence conſidering they dwelt in La Mancha, but their ordinary beverage is ciſtern-water, the neareſt ſpring being near three german leagues diſtant. Good water is indeed twice as dear as wine; for the latter ſold at a farthing a pint while a pint of water coſts a halfpenny.

Fourteenth day.—The agriculture ſeemed to improve, and we again ſaw olive plantations and vineyards, eſpecially in the vicinage of Minaya, where are potteries, and where yokes are made for oxen. At night we ſtopped at the poſada, where we perceived by the neatneſs of our inn and the ſuperiority of the bread, that we were approaching the frontiers of the kingdom of Murcia.

Fifteenth day.—The road now traverſed well-cultivated tracts and ſome villages as far as the town of Albarete, where are a great number of forges and of cartwrights. The effects of this ſpecies of induſtry were obſervable in the dreſs, habita-

habitations, and food of the inhabitants; and we even found in the ſquare two venders of lemonade. A pleaſant road brought us to Peña del Paſſo as ſoon as we had paſſed Chinchilla on our left on the declivity of a mountain.

Every thing now changed its appearance in compariſon with La Mancha. The inn was cleaner and more commodious, the kitchen more ſpacious and adorned with kitchen utenſils painted in various colours, the bread whiter and better baked, the wine of a deep colour, ſweet, and dearer, for it coſts near a halfpenny a pint. Both ſexes were neater dreſſed; the women reminded me of the beauty of the Andaluſians, and ſeemed to participate the muſical talents of the men of that country. Every thing ſhowed more life and gaiety, and half the night was conſumed in ſinging and dancing.

Sixteenth day.—We dined at Fuente de la Higuera, which is ſituated upon a mountain. The olive plantations, the fertile fields that ſurround this place, announced the vicinity of the fine province which we here enter. From the ſummit of the mountain we ſaw that charming valley which diſplayed itſelf before our eyes like a terreſtrial paradiſe, and we haſtened to arrive there.

Here the air ſeemed ſofter, and the heavens more ſerene; the roads were bordered with gooſeberry buſhes, olive trees, vegetables, corn fields,

melon grounds, gourds, and a great number of almond and mulberry trees. Every thing was in bloom and luxuriantly fertile. A vaſt number of little channels made according to a certain ſyſtem, irrigate the ſoil, the exuberant profuſion of which produces flowers and ſtrawberries without even requiring cultivation.

The roads that lead through this immenſe, this enchanting garden are the fineſt in Spain. Magnificent bridges, well ſituated ventas, beautiful houſes on the road ſide, the variety of the landſcape, the gaiety of the huſbandmen, every thing combines to make the traveller forget the fatigue and diſtance of his journey. Add to this the animated manners of the inhabitants, which give life to this enchanting ſcene. We were charmed with their unaffected cordiality, their neatneſs, and comfortable appearance.

The men only wear a white ſhirt or ſmock frock, ſcotch filibegs of the ſame colour, pack-thread ſhoes (alpargatas), and bluiſh ſandals. To complete their dreſs they put on a ſmall black or ſcarlet jacket, ſo that the ſleeves remain looſe. The women wear blue calico petticoats, corſets trimmed with broad ribands, and twiſt their hair in a circle in the greek manner upon the back part of the head. Round the neck they wear a ſtring of large blue beads with ſeveral little gold counters and other ornaments

ornaments that hang down upon their boſom. Their elegant and cloſe dreſſes ſeem invented expreſsly to ſhow their beautiful forms.

At night we arrived at a venta which may be compared on account of its charming ſituation with one of the moſt beautiful country houſes in the Vallais, the ſurrounding parts being covered with orange and fig trees, vineyards, and olive trees. Behind this inn is the ſmall town of Moxente half buried among gardens and buſhes and ſeparated from the road by a rivulet which was almoſt dry. The interior of this town had an extremely chearful appearance, and we fancied ourſelves tranſported to Brigancieres in Provence. All the inhabitants were ſitting before their doors, and we heard people ſinging every where. We bought ſome oranges for a few quartos, but our purchaſe was unneceſſary, for we might have gathered and eaten as many as we pleaſed beneath the trees themſelves; though it is forbidden to take any away, that being conſidered as a theft.

When night came on, the number of gueſts at the venta increaſing, we found it extremely animated, eſpecially after the arrival of ſome muſicians. You may remember what I have formerly ſaid of the talents of the Spaniſh for muſic and of their ſongs accompanied by the guitar. They conſiſt of little amorous couplets made impromptu, yet deſtitute of poetic expreſſion and frequently of

common ſenſe. But there is a particular claſs of muſicians who reſemble the improviſatori of Italy in ſtyle if not in talent.

I found ſome here and there in Biſcay, more rarely in the middle of Spain except at Madrid, and more frequently in Eſtremadura and Andaluſia: but thoſe of Valencia ſeemed to excel all the reſt. They ſing in the dialect of their province, which is a little ſimilar to that of Languedoc, and eaſy to underſtand. Their ballads partly expreſs tenderneſs, and partly a gaiety ſomewhat bordering on licentiouſneſs. They take many poetic licences, and their verſes are moſtly little more than proſe ſet to muſic.

In general the Spaniſh have innumerable ſongs and popular ballads, which almoſt always turn upon adventures of devotion or of chivalry. An adulterer whoſe miſtreſs is carried off by the devil, a courageous knight deſtroying a mooriſh giant, a female ſaint ſaving a chriſtian infant from a torrent, or a young hero who fights three bulls for the honour of his doña, are the uſual ſubjects of theſe compoſitions.

For ſome time paſt ſongs at once moral and ſatirical have been in circulation. It ſhould ſeem as if ſome men of talents had attempted by theſe means to enlighten the common people. Among them are the good mother, the faithful and tender huſband,

huſband, the woman of faſhion (madamita) or petimetra, the miſchief-maker, &c. which correſpond extremely well with this deſign.

Seventeenth to the twentieth day.—We were now about three ſpaniſh leagues from Valencia; but to enjoy the beauty of the country we made but very ſhort day's journies. The numerous villages announced the greateſt affluence; all the fields were covered with tufted mulberry trees, and during the laſt league the road formed a magnificent avenue adorned on each ſide with country houſes. Preſently after we entered the ſuburb, where the ſilk hanging in flocks, the noiſe of the looms, the great number of ſhops and public-houſes, little carts, one-horſe chaiſes, together with the general buſtle and tumult, announced the great city of Valencia.

LETTER XLI.

Situation and Architecture of the City of Valencia.—Climate.—Charming Country.—Promenades.—Grao.—Public Works in the Harbour.—Smuggling.—Present State of Commerce.—Manufactures.—The Interior of the Houses.—The Character of the Inhabitants.—The Women.—Amusements.—Advantages of this City.—Religious Delirium.

Valencia, Sept. 1793.

THE city of Valencia, which contains about 100,000 inhabitants, is situated on a plain on the banks of the river Guadalaviar, and surrounded by a very high wall. The streets are narrow and unpaved, but the rocky soil and the care taken by the inhabitants prevent any accumulation of filth. The houses, which are furnished with lanterns, are very lofty, and mostly in the ancient style, but clean and convenient within. A great number have one half of the roof flat so as to form a terrace. Townsend and Bourgoanne have sufficiently described the public edifices after Pons. I shall therefore merely remark the grotesque paintings that cover the external walls of the churches, and which represent the miracles of some of the saints.

The

The climate of Valencia is extremely mild, and almoſt throughout the year the air is extremely pure, the ſky always ſerene, and the temperature perfectly pleaſant. The winter is like that of Hières or Montpellier; but the ſummer is free from the ſuffocating heat experienced in France. All the ſeaſons ſeem loſt in one delicious ſpring, and the changes of the atmoſphere are almoſt imperceptible. There are indeed frequent ſtorms in ſummer, but they only obſcure the heavens for a few hours.

To enjoy the enchanting proſpect of Valencia in one ſingle point of view you muſt aſcend the tower of the cathedral or the Miguelete. I am acquainted with the fineſt ſpots of the Vallais and of the environs of Geneva, and have endeavoured to deſcribe them in my little work On Geneva and the environs of its lake publiſhed at Berlin in 1794, but the *garden of Valencia* (la huerta de Valencia), as the inhabitants call it, exceeds them all. I have no where beheld ſo rich a vegetation, ſo much variety in the culture, ſo great a population, and ſuch freſhneſs in the landſcape. This delicious plain, ever verdant, interſected by limpid ſtreams, covered with an infinity of country houſes and villages, the peaceful river, with its flowery banks and magnificent bridges, theſe chains of mountains enveloped in miſt, on which reſts a fine azure ſky, the magnificent lake of Albufera,

and

and the blue expanſe of ſea, where the ſails of diſtant veſſels reflect the light, all contribute to render this proſpect one of the grandeſt in Europe.

The whole environs of Valencia form one extenſive promenade: there is however on the other ſide of the river an alameda properly ſo called. Its great extent, its numerous avenues, its lofty tufted trees, the private gardens, and the immenſe graſs plots, the perfume of a continual ſpring, every thing adds new charms to this promenade, which would be ſtill more intereſting, were it not ſo low, and if veſſels could come nearer the city.

At the end of the alameda a very pleaſant road leads to Grao, a pretty town half an hour's walk from Valencia, where there is a port, and which annually increaſes. Two fine rows of houſes lead to a handſome gate looking upon the ſea coaſt, which here forms a ſandy and ſhallow bay.

The road of Valencia has always been one of the moſt dangerous, and the number of ſhipwrecks is comparatively very great. This has induced the conſulate to borrow 500,000 piaſtres, to build a mole, ſecured upon the import duties; but the violence of the ſea, eſpecially in winter, has twice deſtroyed the works. No longer ago than laſt week in a ſtorm, during which the waves broke upon the ſhore, a caiſſoon was entirely ſwallowed up very ſoon after it had been let down. I cannot however determine, whether this misfortune ought

to

to be ſolely aſcribed to the violence of the elements, or whether a ſordid ſelfiſh intereſt and the negligence of the officers or engineers may have contributed to it. Moſt of the labourers are Frenchmen, who come hither in crowds from Languedoc and Provence; they receive 12 reals a day beſides being lodged in the barracks, and the man who ſhowed us the works did not ſeem much to contradict our conjectures.

In proportion as this open coaſt is unfavourable to regular commerce, it is advantageous to ſmuggling: for as ſmall craft can land at any point of the coaſt, they come aſhore with a great quantity of goods, as french hardware, wool, and ſnuff, which they bring from the large ſhips out at ſea. The coaſt indeed is full of cuſtom-houſe officers and guard boats, but theſe are always either eluded or bribed.

The commerce of Valencia has been already deſcribed ſufficiently at large by other travellers. It was formerly important, but the war ſeems to have totally annihilated it. The fear of engliſh privateers was ſo ſtrong here, that very few coaſting veſſels ventured out to the ports to the eaſtward. Hence almoſt all the veſſels belonging to Valencia lay dry upon the beech, there was in the road only one raguſan ſhip and one dane, which came for cargoes of wine and fruit. Thus articles of exportation had fallen in price one half, and

and ſilk was in the ſame ſituation, though its exportation has at all times been prohibited. But I muſt tell you, that by means of the home trade conſiderable cargoes were ſent to the weſtern provinces, from which it was ſent in contraband to England. This accounts for the fall of ſilk from five to three peſos a pound.

Pons, Cavanilles, Townſend, and Bourgoanne, have fully treated of all that concerns the induſtry of Valencia, which gives to this city a very great reſemblance to Lyons, as may be perceived in the moſt trifling objects. It ſuffices to take a walk through its narrow populous ſtreets, and to ſee the immenſe number of open workſhops and decorated warehouſes, the richneſs of its inhabitants, and the extreme activity thence ariſing, to perceive inſtantaneouſly, that you are arrived, in a great manufacturing town. The noiſe of the ſilk looms, the ſongs of the weavers, the large ſtocks of ſilk ſtockings, ribands, fringes, &c. expoſed on all ſides, the cloaks of the men and the dreſſes of the women, all ſhow an active and induſtrious people.

If we enter the houſes, we are charmed with the neatneſs, the comfort, and the luxury, which diſtinguiſh the Valencians and Catalonians from the other provinces of Spain. In the balconies and on the terraces of the houſes are a quantity of orange, lemon, and fig trees, narciſſuſes, carnations,

tions, and roſes. The apartments are adorned with porcelain tiles, the floors laid with ſmooth bricks, the windows have ſilk curtains, and the chairs are covered with blue *eſparto* or reeds; the open gallery that runs round the court yard of the houſes is fitted up with cotton curtains, and the kitchens are adorned with little fountains. The plates are of bluiſh pot or other colours and adorned with gilt figures; the cork pitchers are curiouſly wrought, and adorned with ornaments of eſparto of various colours. In a word, the induſtry of the Valencians is evident to an obſerving eye every ſtep we take.

As to the character of the inhabitants, it is mild and amiable. They neither poſſeſs the repulſive coldneſs of the Caſtilian, nor the fire of the Andaluſian; their manners are more poliſhed, and their addreſs more affable; their vivacity approximates to that of the French, and they are extremely prepoſſeſſing to ſtrangers. I think I obſerved among them more coldneſs and reſerve toward the French and even a little want of politeneſs; but I am uncertain whether reaſons of policy or of commerce are the cauſe.

The Valencians know the advantages of their province, which give them a predilection for their country, and elevate them with pride. Even our caleſero and ſeveral other Valencians whom we

met

met on the road were inceſſantly talking of their province: "Where" ſaid he, "is there in all Spain ſuch a *garden?*" This ſentence he repeated a thouſand times, when we had entered it, and as he pointed out to us the beauty of the proſpects we ſaw. I obſerved the ſame thing at Valencia, where I was frequently aſked, if I had ſeen throughout Spain ſo fine a province.

In general the inhabitants ſhow more wit and talent in converſation, than I had as yet remarked in Spain. Indeed its charming climate is well calculated to awaken genius; no province of Spain has produced ſo many painters and other artiſts as Valencia, nor are there any where ſo many eſtabliſhments for the advancement of the ſciences and the arts. In the general change, which is preparing in Spain, the oppreſſion of the nobles and of the clergy will here as elſewhere be done away, and Valencia will become the ſource of new lights to all the other provinces.

The women are inconteſtably the handſomeſt in all Spain: their ſymmetry is perfect, their complexion clear and brilliant, the tone of their voice and their language enchanting; in ſhort, their prepoſſeſſing manners and innumerable graces, which ſeem perfectly natural to them, faſcinate every foreigner that beholds them. The mildneſs of the climate ſeems to contribute to develope their conſtitutions and their paſſions very early, and I have

have here ſeen extremely young girls on the point of becoming mothers.

In general at Valencia all is amuſement and pleaſure: promenades, riding in carriages called taranas, fiſhing in the lake Albufera, the theatre, concerts at the alameda, pilgrimages to magnificent convents, &c. every thing invites to the enjoyment of life, which the fair ſex partake, not indeed with Andaluſian licentiouſneſs, but yet with an amiable freedom.

Living is very cheap at Valencia, and all kinds of proviſions, eſpecially bread, wine, fruit, and vegetables, are very abundant. Yet the meat and vegetables are reputed leſs nutritious than in other provinces: they are however eaſy of digeſtion, and the appetite never fails; to which the pure land and ſea breezes doubtleſs contribute. If inſtead of a peculiar dialect the inhabitants ſpoke pure Spaniſh, Valencia would have ſtill greater attractions for a foreigner than Seville; but it is certainly the moſt agreeable town, and the beſt reſidence in Spain during winter. Here is a kind of daily advertiſer called Diario containing miſcellaneous matter that is tolerably intereſting.

I cannot conclude this letter without ſaying a word or two of my hoſts. Both the man and his wife are originals not to be met with but in catholic countries; both bigots to exceſs, but each in a different way. In the huſband this diſpoſition

has aſſumed his ſilent and gloomy caſt of character, while in the wife it bears all the ſymptoms of tenderneſs. The huſband has filled the whole houſe, and particularly his own apartment, with images of ſaints, reſembling an entire collection of the little augſburg toys ſo well known in Germany. In fulfilment of a vow, he mutters his prayers three times a day before theſe idols, an occupation which daily employs two full hours. He alſo impoſes on himſelf very painful mortifications, talks very little, reads gloomy books, and remains whole hours with his eyes ſhut, ſo that he is in the high road to become either a madman or a ſaint.

The wife's fanaticiſm is much more ſocial, and her pious imaginations bear the ſtamp of the mildneſs and ſoftneſs of her ſex. She has got herſelf received a *ſlave of the Holy Trinity* (eſclava de la ſantiſſima trinidad), of which ſhe has obtained a certificate in form from her confeſſor, and in conſequence of which ſhe is bound every day to decorate a large picture with flowers and tapers, to repeat a certain number of prayers before it, and to pay a certain ſum weekly to her confeſſor, as agent of the Trinity; yet all this does not ſeem to her ſufficient for ſalvation, and ſhe has beſides an image of the holy virgin, which ſhe very punctually ſupplies with all the neceſſary habiliments both for day and night beſides tapers, flowers, and

all

all that can contribute to ornament the happy idol.

This devout *eſclava* is a little woman very affable and complaiſant, whoſe religious ſentiments do not at all interfere with other terreſtrial feelings, while her impaſſive huſband ſeems to have arrived at all the ſpirituality of the bleſſed.

LETTER XLII.

Departure from Valencia.—Murviedro.—Ancient Theatre of Saguntum.—Nulis.—Cork Buckets.—Singular Bottles.—Fly Chasers.—Maltese.—Architecture.—Castellon de la Plana.—Oropesa.—Alcala de Sibert.—Vinaroz.—San Carlos.—The Fate of public Enterprises in Spain.—Ampolla.—Perello.—The Pirate.—Pass of Balaguer or Balachet.—Hospitalete.—Change in the Appearance of the Country from Cambrils.—Lively Scenery.—Tarragona.—Torre del Embarr.—Villa Franca.—Hostal de la Orda.—Approach to Barcelona.

Barcelona, Sept. 1793.

We left Valencia in a very fine evening, and went as far as Murviedro. We traversed a charming meadow, the full moon embellished the face of nature with her calm tranquil light, and the balmy air was perfumed with the scent of orange trees. The villages and houses seemed to pass by us and disappear like a magic picture, till at length, about midnight we arrived at Murviedro.

There could not be a more favourable moment for seeing the ancient theatre of Saguntum. We traversed the tranquil village, the silence of which was only interrupted by the sound of some solitary guitar, and we descended near the broad proscenium. The theatre extends in a grand and magnificent manner along a mountain, on the summit

of

of which are the ruins of an ancient caſtle. The moon ſhone directly above the theatre, and the ſhadows of the interpoſing clouds played majeſtically over the vaſt ſeries of ſeats. Our imaginations called up the images of antiquity; theſe deſerted immovable ſeats ſeemed peopled with ſpectators, and amid the ſilence of night we almoſt fancied we heard the noiſe and tumult of the ancient Saguntum. How fragile is human grandeur! how tranſient the glory of nations! Theſe ruins, theſe ſolitary remains of the ancient Saguntum, will perhaps in a few more ages be reduced to duſt, nor its memory remain but in the narrow ſpace aſſigned it in a few pages of ſome recording work.

This theatre formerly held 9000 ſpectators. About ten years ago an attempt was begun to prepare it for modern repreſentations. The ſtage was cleared of huts, trees, and rope-makers' works, and the buſineſs of reſtoring it was going on, when the war broke out and interrupted the undertaking. The king however has appointed a conſervador for this expreſs purpoſe, whoſe treatiſe, publiſhed in 1793, I have mentioned before under the head of hiſtory and antiquities, when treating of the literature of Spain. The author there points out the errors of his predeceſſor, the learned Don Manuel de Alicante, and endeavours to prove that this theatre is not of roman but

greek architecture. A deſcription of the ancient circus was added, which is alſo ſtill in exiſtence, though leſs entire.

Second day.—Our road paſſed through ſeveral ſmall villages to the ſmall town of Nulis, where we ſtopped at noon. Olive plantations, vineyards, orange and fig trees, and fields of wheat and rice ſucceeded each other with a charming variety. Here we had a ſecond autumn, that ſeaſon beginning in this part a month later than in Andaluſia. The harveſt of figs had already been got in, and they were expoſed in all the ſtreets of Nulis in order to dry.

However mean our inn was in appearance, we were very well received and very well treated. At Valencia for the firſt time we had remarked ſmall cork buckets covered with pitch and tar uſed for drawing water and keeping it cool. But here we found them in ſuch numbers that to every gueſt was given his bottle *al freſco*. The bottles have on the ſide a ſmall but very long pipe made expreſsly to drink out of, and uſed as the bota is in other places. The pipe is held ſome inches from the mouth, and thus no glaſs is wanted: but this method requires practice and dexterity. Our landlady placed a little girl beſide us, whoſe ſole occupation while we dined was to drive away the flies with a bruſh made of eſparto and adorned with gold taſſels.

At

At our departure we were accoſted by two travellers, whom by their appearance and ſtill more by their dialect we ſoon perceived to be from Malta. Their features were a ſtrange mixture of the african and italian, and their language partook of french, italian, ſpaniſh, and arabic. They were two merchants in a ſmall way travelling from Barcelona to Valencia, and who in all appearance were doing very well. The converſation, as you may eaſily imagine, turned upon the conqueſt of their native iſland. They were quite in a rage. Their anger at the ~~hero~~ who had recently taken it burſt forth in epithets equally vehement and ſingular, but which I eaſily forgave on account of their patriotic enthuſiaſm.

During the two laſt leagues the culture grew worſe and worſe, and we regretted above all the want of trees, the major part of the country being covered with lavender and oleander. The five or ſix villages we met with in the ſpace of eight leagues chiefly conſiſted of two rows of houſes, of which the riſing roofs were covered with pale yellow tiles. The walls were all of a boue colour, but the low round doors and the ſmall green windows were adorned with white frames. The air ſince we left Nulis ſeemed leſs pure and loaded with marſhy vapours. Fields of rice were alſo more frequent.

For ſome time paſt the government have taken meaſures to remedy the unwholeſomeneſs of this ſpecies of cultivation, but the Valencians ſeem to pay very little reſpect to theſe wiſe regulations. And yet Cavanilles and other authors have ſufficiently proved by tables of births and deaths, that in a ſingle diſtrict of Valencia (las riberas del Turio) the population ſince the abolition of that article has almoſt doubled, the number of births far exceeding that of deaths.

We now arrived at Caſtellon de la Plana where good roads and cultivation ſuddenly ceaſe. The inn however is paſſable and the wine excellent.

Third day.—The road for ſome hours deſcended till it came down to the ſea coaſt, which we ſhall now have conſtantly on our right. The ſhore is moſtly flat, and along the whole range of it from the Punta del Margal to Cape Oropeſa are an infinite number of places where ſmall craft may land. We alſo found ſeveral pickets of cavalry poſted there, not only to prevent ſmuggling, but alſo to defend the coaſt againſt the Engliſh and againſt pirates, who under that flag frequently come on ſhore and plunder the inhabitants.

The hill to the left, above which riſe more elevated mountains, is in many places covered with melon-beds (melonares), and there is alſo a row of fig trees extending along the ſhore. Almoſt all

theſe

theſe trees are curved from the ſea, all their branches tending toward the land. The ſea breezes have a very perceptible effect on vegetation, it is aſſerted that only the anterior branches bear fruit.

We now quitted this flat ſhore, and aſcended a ſteep hill, which continued for a league, and was covered with wild ſhrubs. On its higheſt elevation we found a ſmall light-houſe. From thence the eye plunges into an immeaſurable abyſs, beholds the ſea foaming and breaking on the rocks, the horizon unfolds to an immenſe extent, and to the ſouthward ſhine an infinity of ſails. To the left we perceived an interminable chain of mountains and before us the caſtle of Oropeſa.

After this the road deſcending we paſſed very near that caſtle. It is built upon a lower rock, and ſince the war broke out a new guard-houſe has been added. The ſea forms a ſmall bay at its foot, the ſhores of which gradually grow more and more flat. We travelled ſome time acroſs an ill-cultivated plain, and leaving to our left a large venta, aſcended the ridge of another rock forming the paſs of Oropeſa. The ſcenery was wild and uncultivated, and the road almoſt perpendicular. We found however on the other ſide a more gentle declivity, and a quantity of fig-trees and carobs.

Having dined at another venta, we purſued our journey acroſs a deſert and ill-cultivated tract of

land at a ſmall diſtance from the ſhore as far as Alcala de Sibert. We were accoſted by an old eccleſiaſtic, mounted upon a borrico, who amuſed us by deſcribing the pillages formerly committed by the Africans, who in thoſe times frequently landed here. Fortunately the peace concluded between Spain and the barbary ſtates has now put an end to their incurſions, but the coaſt will long remain in a melancholy ſtate of devaſtation.

Alcala de Sibert is a pretty large but ill-built town, where ſome dragoons were quartered in barracks. As it was Sunday, we found the place full of life and gaiety. The beauty of its female inhabitants is much ſpoken of, and indeed I ſaw a great number of intereſting countenances.

Fourth day. — We travelled through tracts of country, ſome quite deſert, others ill cultivated, as far as Vinaroz, which is ſurrounded with fine vineyards. It is a pretty conſiderable place, but the inhabitants, who were formerly thriving, have ſuffered much in conſequence of the war, becauſe they can no longer export their wine and brandy. All the ſhips had been drawn by mules a piſtol ſhot up the land, and ſcarcely were a few fiſhing ſmacks ſeen out at ſea. Here is ſpoken the Catalan, a dialect ſimilar to that of Navarre, and which appears not much more difficult; here too, for the firſt time we found the wine, which is alſo very

very cheap, of a ruby colour, which diſtinguiſhes the vintage of theſe two provinces.

In the afternoon our road ſtill continued to traverſe barren heaths, and we fancied ourſelves upon the ſhores of the Baltic in the kingdom of Pruſſia. After we had paſſed the frontiers of the two provinces over a little bridge, though without finding the cultivation better, we arrived at night at San Carlos in a tolerably large and neat poſada.

Our landlady was a Piedmonteſe, and ſpoke French pretty well, as did her two daughters. We were not a little ſurpriſed to ſee ſilver ſpoons and forks, plates of engliſh pottery, chimneys, and beds with curtains; in ſhort a good french inn, to which even the beſt in Valencia could not be compared.

San Carlos, as is well known, is a new-built town, being only eighteen years old. The object of government in this undertaking was to favour the population of the coaſt at the mouth of the Ebro, to improve this country by canals, and to eſtabliſh a larger and more commodious port. Conſidering the obſtacles to be encountered, certainly much was done; but this ſcheme experienced the uſual fate of all ſuch attempts in Spain; and for want of money the firſt enthuſiaſm was ſucceeded by neglect and total oblivion. Add to this the temper of an adminiſtration, with whom favour

favour has frequently more weight than patriotiſm. How many ſuch enterpriſes have benefited none but the ſchemers, after being granted at the ſolicitation of a favourite, and have ultimately ruined old and uſeful eſtabliſhments formed with much more wiſdom!

Without applying theſe remarks to the project of the Alfaques, I ſhall merely ſtate that ſince the war broke out theſe works have ceaſed, and that their incompleteneſs leads to an apprehenſion of their total decay, together with the loſs of all the money embarked in them. Muſt not every Spaniard who loves his country feel indignant at beholding, amidſt a ruinous war and general miſery, the fortune of a favourite raiſed to near half a million ſterling, and while loans upon loans are decreed, the mere nuptial preſents of two individuals ſwallow up the produce of this precarious reſource, even before it is received at the treaſury.

At San Carlos we met with two greek veſſels, which had put in becauſe they could not keep the ſea: the captains were purchaſing a ſtock of wine and bread. They were bound for Malaga; for the Spaniſh in general uſe ſcarcely any other veſſels for their mediterranean trade.

Fifth day.—The country we now traverſed was no better than that of the preceding day. We croſſed the Ebro near the ſmall town of Ampoſta. The ferry conſiſted of two large boats joined together

gether with planks. It was put in motion partly by oars and partly by two mules that drew it with two ropes faſtened to a ſmall tow-maſt. On the other ſide we ſaw a ſmall battery; but the guns lay without carriages in the ſand. The vegetation exhibited nothing but wild plants, a few cork trees, and ſome encinas or evergreen oaks. The venta where we dined was in perfect uniſon with the face of the country. The landlord was a Caſtilian, and his houſe a mere barn.

By a road equally deſert, but ſtill more mountainous, we arrived toward night at a wretched hamlet of fiſhermen called Perellos. The bread and wine were of the worſt quality, and the fiſh almoſt ſtinking, the fiſhing ſmacks not having been able to go out to ſea for ſome days. The ſituation of this village, which is in form of a baſin, its execrable water, the indigence and filthineſs of its inhabitants, frequently produce agues. You would fancy yourſelf tranſported to the middle of old Caſtile, were it not for the catalonian coſtume and figure of the inhabitants.

Sixth day. — The country was ſtill a deſert. Continuing to follow the ſea coaſt we ſaw a ſmall ſhip with french colours cruiſing near the ſhore, which when our muleteer perceived, we heard a cry on board, but I only diſtinguiſhed the word *eau*. Our muleteer however thought it needful to gallop

gallop away from the ſhore, becauſe by the form of the chebeck and the dreſs of the ſailors he judged ſhe was a pirate; and he told us a ſhocking ſtory of two travellers, who during a ſimilar converſation had been ſhot with muſkets and then pillaged.

We now purſued a very inconvenient road between high oleander trees at the foot of the mountain called the Paſs of Balaguer, the ridge of which we perceived before us three leagues diſtant in the ſhape of a pyramid.

The road here aſcends in a ſpiral line, and the fort is majeſtically ſituated on the lofty ſummit of the rock. In proportion as we mounted, the horizon, which is here immenſely extenſive, encreaſed on all ſides, and the wind blew a hurricane. The road however is very commodious even for waggons, which having no other way are conſtantly paſſing and repaſſing.

After mounting during an hour we arrived at a venta oppoſite the fort which ſtands on a ſtill more elevated rock. Here the road becomes ſtraight. At the venta we found a company of dragoons, and the ſerjeant examined our paſſports, the object of which was to diſcover ſuſpicious perſons, and particularly robbers and deſerters.

The other ſide of the paſs, where we deſcended, is a much more gentle declivity, the culture

ſeems

ſeems a little better, and we ſaw Hoſpitalete in a very romantic ſituation among buſhes near the ſea.

Hoſpitalete conſiſts merely of the ruins of an old caſtle and a few ſmall fiſhermen's houſes. The front of the caſtle toward the ſea has been converted into a venta, the back part being entirely ruined. There are however ſtill a few rooms for the picket of dragoons, and a well has alſo been preſerved. The ſhore round about the venta is adorned with a few fig trees, and the appearance of the whole is very pictureſque. We ſaw there a child attacked with the ſmall pox. He lay in a cork cradle near the window, where he was continually expoſed to the freſh ſea-air. The eruption ſeemed about to come out, but the child appeared very well, and was playing with all the gaiety natural to his age. The landlord told me this was their mode of treating that diſorder, and that it produced a very good effect.

The road by which we arrived at Cambrils, where we paſſed the night, was as miſerable as the place we ſlept at.

Seventh day.—This day, as it were by ſome magic wand, the country ſeemed to change its appearance, and we were enchanted every ſtep we took by the picture of the moſt luxuriant fertility. The road wound amidſt an immenſe extent of vine-

yards

yards reſembling a garden, here and there interſected by plots of olive, fig, and carob trees, and fields of corn and maize; the vines, which are here very low, were loaded with large bunches of black grapes; every where we beheld the chearfulneſs and activity of the vine dreſſers, and of the women who ſang as they gathered the vintage, mules loaded with grapes, and carts full of barrels for the new wine, men knocking down the carob-fruit with long perches, and women gathering up the olives.

Theſe carobs (or algaras) are long black huſks containing a brown and ſweetiſh pulp, with which mules and cattle are fed: they are extremely nouriſhing, and it is ſaid they give the mules more ſtrength to bear fatigue.

Having got out of our carriage to enjoy the beauty of the country, we were offered grapes on all ſides, and aſked to gather what we pleaſed ourſelves. Our muleteer got ſuch a quantity, that he gave ſome to his mules, who ate them with avidity.

From thence we arrived at the ſmall town of Tarragona ſituated on the top of a mountain, from which the eye looks down upon the ſea. The road is ſteep and troubleſome, but the view is very grand. A ſmall mole not yet finiſhed is defended by open batteries, above, placed on the point

point of the rock, from the clefts of which aloes are ſeen ſprouting up here and there. In the road lay two ſhips, the one daniſh the other greek, that had juſt taken in a cargo of wine and brandy, which are the ordinary exports of this place.

This little town contains ſome pretty houſes, and wears the appearance of affluence, though, excepting the noiſe made by a great number of coopers, it ſeems to have very little life. Our muleteer ſtopped at the ſmall village of Figareta or Figuerita, and we rejoined him an hour after on a hilly and incommodious road, but which preſented us with very pleaſing views.

Our afternoon's journey was not leſs intereſting: the beauty of the vineyards, the activity of the vintagers, the pleaſantneſs of our road, the calmneſs of the ſea on our right, the high ranges of mountains on our left, all concurred in ſhortening our way to Torre del Embarr.

Before we arrived, we paſſed another well-built village on the declivity of a hill, which gradually deſcends to the ſhore. We afterwards aſcended another height, on the ſummit of which is Torre del Embarr, where the houſes are elegantly painted and ſurrounded on all ſides with vines, olive trees, and fig trees. The little bay here formed by the ſea was full of fiſhing-boats returning to the port, from which we purchaſed a very delicious ſupper,

and the whole village wore the appearance of affluence. When night was come, we went to the beach to bathe, and fifty paces from us we found a troop of young girls, who were playing together and had come with the same intention.

Eighth day.—In proportion as we approached Barcelona, the country became more populous and better cultivated. We passed several mostly new-built villages, and stopped at noon at Villa Franca, where we at length perceived high chains of mountains extending before us, like vast ramifications of the Pyrenees, over the whole surface of Catalonia. The setting sun gilded their lofty summits with roseate hues, and we saw Montserrat raise its majestic head among the clouds.

The road visibly ascended, we left the sea coast for the last time till we arrived at Barcelona, and we climbed the ridge of a mountain that was covered with tufted encinas or evergreen oaks. The deep valleys, covered with huts and clumps of trees, were insensibly lost in obscurity, the stars began to shine, and the wind became stronger. Thus we perceived that we had left the southern regions, and were advancing to the eastward. The orange trees and aloes became smaller, almond trees, more scarce, and the air had a certain autumnal odour.

We now arrived at Hostal de la Orda, or in good Spanish posada de la Huerta, situated, together with

with its ſpacious dependencies, at the foot of a mountain upon which other mountains ſtill higher are heaped up. At the inn we found about thirty dragoons who were ſent in ſearch of ſome banditti, and whoſe patroles we ſaw ſet off for that purpoſe.

Ninth day.—The firſt league our road was excellent, but preſently we were loſt as it were among the mountains, continually aſcending and deſcending from rock to rock. If any thing could compenſate theſe inconveniences, it was the general appearance of theſe mountainous ſcenes, which reſembled the Alps. We were quite aſtoniſhed at finding amid this ſolitude the remains of a ſtone arch, which formerly united the two vallies. We afterwards paſſed the Lobregat over the moſt magnificent bridge in Spain. The chain of mountains ſeemed to open to admit us into a valley adorned with all the charms of plenty and with a numerous population.

A fine avenue of poplars leads in a direct line to Barcelona, and the ſtony road changes to a fine cauſeway. It was covered with men and carriages, and embelliſhed on each ſide by country houſes, gardens, and plantations. Every thing had an appearance of affluence, animation, and gaiety. Before us were the towers and fortifications of the city, and at a diſtance the amphitheatre of mountains we had deſcended. Here we again

breathed the refreſhing ſea air, and at length paſſed the Hoſpitaller gate. Within, the walls are adorned with aloes, but ſoon this verdure diſappears on entering the dark and narrow ſtreets of Barcelona.

LETTER XLIII.

Situation of Barcelona.—Firſt Impreſſion made by that City, and the great Induſtry it exhibits.—Promenades.—Muelle de San Luis.—Paſſeo Nuevo.—The Citadel.—Paſſeo de la Rambla.—The Shore.—Muelle Nuevo.—Environs.—Montjuich.—Amuſements.—Dreſs.—Figure and general Character of the Inhabitants.—Their political Opinions.—State of the Commerce of Barcelona.—Greek and turkiſh Veſſels.—Anecdote of two malteſe Ships.—Reſemblance with the Manners of Italy.—Advantages of Barcelona in regard to Literature and the Arts.—Proviſions.—Language.

Barcelona, Oct. 1798.

BARCELONA is ſituated on a plain, which is bounded on three ſides by mountains, but the view is open toward the ſea. Here the traveller readily perceives he is approaching the frontiers of Spain and of the Pyrenees, yet the climate of this city is of the moſt agreeable temperature, to which the vicinity of the ſea and its general ſituation probably much contribute.

The interior reſembles a labyrinth; and this great city, which contains above 100,000 inhabitants, is full of dark narrow ſtreets continually interſecting each other: they are kept however tolerably clean, and lighted at night throughout the year. The houſes are lofty, heavy, and painted

in various colours. In the ſmaller ſtreets the roofs ſeem almoſt to touch, and in ſome places the inhabitants may ſhake hands from the balconies; ſo that lovers only require the aid of a plank to meet. Whatever cordiality this proximity may produce among the inhabitants, and between the ſexes, the want of air and of ſun are great inconveniences. Add to this the crowd of profeſſions and of trades, the journeymen of which work in open ſhops as at Marſeilles. The various appearance of all theſe occupations, the noiſe of hammers and various other proceſſes confounded together, the ſhow of innumerable kinds of goods expoſed to ſale, with the charming catalonian women in the foreground, and the confuſed crowd of ſo many men collected together, all contribute to give intereſt to the ſcene. Scarcely is there a ſingle art or trade but is practiſed at Barcelona, and many of them, as for inſtance the ſhoemakers, ſupply all Spain, ſending whole cargoes to Seville, Cadiz, Madrid, &c.; for Barcelona and Valencia are in point of induſtry the two firſt towns in Spain.

However confined are the walls of Barcelona, there is no want of promenades. On quitting its narrow ſtreets you are at once tranſported to the ſpacious Plaza de la Mar, round which are the exchange built in the italian ſtyle, the old governor's palace (capitan general), and the modern though ſomewhat heavy edifice of the cuſtom-houſe. In front

front on two ſides is the ſea. On the right you enter upon the mole called Muelle de San Luis, on the left is the way to the Paſſeo Nuevo.

The firſt view of the Muelle de San Luis has ſomething ſtriking and ſolemn. The immenſe expanſe of the ocean, the lofty rock and caſtle of Montjuich (as the Catalonians write it, though the Caſtilians write it as it is pronounced Montjui), the port with a foreſt of maſts, the light-houſe and its batteries, the flat ſhore lined with taverns, the little terraces of which adjoin the ramparts, and the fine rows of houſes on the left, produce a grand and lively effect not to be equalled even at Cadiz: for at the latter the ſea is only ſeen on one ſide of the ramparts. Hence the view at Barcelona is more free and magnificent.

Here the fineſt part of the day is the evening, when the ſun ſets behind Montjuich. Ships of all kinds are ſeen entering the port, and the ſhore is all alive: the fiſhermen drag their boats on to the ſands with a loud cry, and at night innumerable lights are ſeen: the moon riſes majeſtically above the ſea, the roar of the ſhining waves is more diſtinctly heard, the number of people walking increaſes, and from the houſes, which are lighted and open on all ſides, the ſound of muſic and of ſongs with all the noiſe and buſtle of the dance are heard. This tumult contraſted with the calmneſs of the ſea with her waves tranquilly ſinking

to reſt gives the mind a ſenſation of ſublimity that I ſhould in vain attempt to deſcribe.

From the Muelle de San Luis the road turns to the left toward the Paſſeo Nuevo, which was formerly a waſte plot of ground between the town and the fort. But ſince the war broke out, and to employ a great number of poor people who were out of work, the preſent governor-general, Don Agoſtin de Lancaſter determined to make ſome embelliſhments there, and has been aſſiſted by numerous voluntary ſubſcriptions. Five avenues of elms and poplars have been planted, extending in a ſtraight line to the Puerta de Francia, and two more are to be added. The Paſſeo Nuevo is much more lonely than the Muelle, but this only renders it the more rural.

To the right is the road to the citadel, where the firſt object that ſtrikes the eye is the great broad tower in front of the armory (plaza de armas). It is uſed at preſent as a priſon for ſome generals and officers detained there to be tried by a court martial for ſurrendering the fort of Figueras. Hating the French as they do, the Catalonians conſider the ſurrender of this fort as a double crime, and endeavour by all poſſible means to aggravate the confinement of the priſoners. Hence to deprive them of the proſpect they would enjoy from their dungeon, they have ſtopped up all the windows, and except their prayers theſe unfortu-

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nate people are deprived of all books and even of the public papers.

It is very probable, that ſome miſunderſtanding and the influence of their wives may have been the ſole cauſes of their ſurrendering the fort, and the reports of treachery or of ſecret orders from the court ſeem wholly deſtitute of foundation. Theſe trials may perhaps yet be delayed for a time by the fluctuation of different parties, but the military law is too clear for the priſoners to eſcape death, unleſs they are ſaved by an act of authority from the king.

Near the Muelle de San Luis, under which are warehouſes, is a ſmall lateral ſtreet, from which you enter them, and commanding the Paſſeo de la Rambla, a promenade, which I cannot better deſcribe than by comparing it to the linden walk at Berlin. This is undeniably the beſt ſtreet in Barcelona, and extends as far as the ſquare of the Jeſuits, being nearly half a league long in a ſtraight line. The Rambla is uſed as a promenade in winter, becauſe it is entirely ſheltered and admits the ſun. At night it is uſed as a place of intrigue by the lower orders.

Going out of the gate toward the ſea the ſhore on the right is full of wine-ſhops, and lined with large ſhips, which in conſequence of the ceſſation of commerce are lying aſhore. Farther on are tents and meaſurers of goods, where at all times are large

large heaps of cheeſe, beans, ſalt-cod, &c. Here every thing is in motion, eſpecially at night, when the fiſhing ſmacks return into port. For then a vaſt number of ſoldiers and journeymen come down to haul them on ſhore for a few quartos, a multitude of men and women crowd round them to buy their fiſh, the mariners extend their nets to dry, their children light fires, and the poor fiſherman who has no other ſtock than his boat ſleeps beſide the element that yields him a ſubſiſtence.

To the left is a vaſt incloſure, at the end of which are tiers of veſſels, and here is ſeen that activity with its attendants, which prevail at all ſea ports of any magnitude. The quay is about 1000 paces wide and terminates at the foot of the light-houſe, where is a guard-houſe with ſome other buildings for the purpoſe of performing quarantine. Upon the ramparts properly ſo called, or the Muelle Nuevo, you may enjoy at your eaſe the view of the ocean and the port, the entrance being defended by a battery, the guns of which croſs with thoſe of the Muelle de San Luis. Hence you perceive theſe two moles together with the beach, which is very broad, form a ſemicircular harbour.

Returning toward the town you will perceive a row of houſes painted green and red, which lie beyond the great road. They form the hither ſide of Barceloneta or little Barcelona. On beholding this it is difficult

cult to conceive, that this little town, which has not been founded above twenty years, ſhould contain 13,000 inhabitants; but it is very extenſive in depth, and covers a conſiderable ſpace along ſhore. It may be conſidered as a ſuburb to Barcelona; for a vaſt many ſeamen find there the means of ſupplying all their wants, and ſmuggling being ſo much in faſhion there, many kinds of goods are bought much cheaper than at Barcelona. All that part which is without the ſea gate as far as the light-houſe point forms a ſtrip of land of an oval form, which extends along the coaſt.

The reſt of the environs have a very rural appearance, and you may ride round them from Puerta de Francia to Puerta de Santa Madrona, in a ſemicircle. The ſpace along the coaſt from the laſt mentioned gate to the former is occupied by the Muelle de San Luis, the citadel, and the Paſſeo Nuevo.

The promenade that ſurrounds the city runs along the glacis and has ſome very grand avenues. It commands a charming view of the mountains, which are cultivated almoſt to their tops, and which inſenſibly change to a ſmiling plain. Many of them brought ſtrongly to my mind the country about Geneva near Seligny. Farther on between the intermediate gate called Puerta del Angel and the gate of Santa Madrona are nothing but kitchen gardens, beds of flowers, and little cottages, that

have

have a very pleaſing appearance. At length we approach Montjuich, which we have already ſeen on various ſides and in various points of view, and we aſcend it by a ſteep road waſhed by the ſea.

As we mount we find a vaſt number of country houſes and wine ſhops adorned with artificial gardens upon ridges of rocks. The road is planted with various ſhrubs, with oleander, and with aloes, and paſſes under the guns of the citadel. Meanwhile the horizon ſeems to increaſe wonderfully, and the eye looks down upon the ſea, the town, and the port. This is an excellent ſpot from which to take a view of Barcelona.

It is the cuſtom to go to Montjuich chiefly on Sundays. The narrow road that runs along the ſhore is as full of venders of vegetables as if it were a fruit market, and the whole heights are covered with people. Some ſit quietly at the foot of the rock and amuſe themſelves with angling, while others ſit in groups round great leathern bottles of wine. Some play at pelota or ballon, and others at bowls. Here ſturdy artiſans exerciſe themſelves in wreſtling, there an amorous couple ſteal from the importunity of the crowd to ſome retired corner of the rock. Wherever we turn our eyes, we behold affluence, chearfulneſs, and the juſt reward of induſtry.

The ſame may be ſaid in regard to dreſs: for the inhabitants are every where adorned with the

manufactures of the country. The coſtume of Barcelona has ſomething peculiar which characterizes it. The women wear cotton petticoats of various colours, ſilk jackets, fine ſtriped aprons, ſtockings of clouded ſilk or worſted, green or yellow ſhoes, long ſilk hair-nets of various colours adorned with fringe and ſtone ear-rings. The men wear culottes and ſhort jackets of manchester ſtuffs, or of ſatin, and of all colours, large black hair-nets, or when more undreſſed red woollen caps; blue and red ſcarfs, enormous cocked hats, and the lower claſſes wear alpargatas or ſhoes made of packthread.

Both the men and the women have a robuſt make, and their muſcles, their features, and their whole appearance ſhow a vigorous conſtitution. The women without poſſeſſing the graces of the Valencians have their clear complexions, are graver and prouder, but equally good houſewives. The men have an uprightneſs equal to that of the Swiſs, and the ſame love of liberty. They have inherited the noble ſpirit and bravery of their anceſtors, whoſe arms they retain. In general Catalonia ſeems to be the great ſcene of ſpaniſh generoſity. The Catalonian piques himſelf on a mortal hatred to the French, has a marked predilection for the Engliſh and Germans, and the conjectures of hiſtorians on this ſubject are realized in a manner highly flattering to the travellers of theſe two nations.

tions. A ſecret attachment to the ancient german houſe that once reigned in Spain ſeems ſtill to prevail among the Catalonians, and had the French reckoned upon a party in this province, it is certain they would have found inſurmountable obſtacles in the majority of the inhabitants.

It is true the preſent ſtate of affairs does not contribute to make the French beloved. To them the Catalonians attribute the preſent war with England and conſequently the loſs of their trade. Their goods accumulate, their manufactures are at a ſtand or dwindling away, they have either no importations at all in the preſent ſtate of affairs, or they arrive very rarely and at exorbitant prices, and the bleſſed engliſh flag, that formerly gave life to their ports is no longer ſeen, but on board the privateers that infeſt their ſhores and totally ruin their coaſting trade.

The Engliſh however ſeem ſtill to treat the Catalonians with a certain degree of lenity and regard. Frequently they have reſtored their veſſels at open ſea for nothing or for an inconſiderable ranſom, and many ſailors of that province who were taken on board french ſhips have been ſent home well clothed, and even with money for their journey. In general the catalonian merchants can only make uſe of neutral colours, and eſpecially thoſe of Greece and Turkey; and the fatal changes their new connections with the Porte have made in the trade of

Spain

Spain are already perceived with regret. Under the latter of these flags the corn of the north has given place to that of Syria and Tauris, and they even send cargoes of it to America. I have been told that more than one ship loaded with this article have derived from a voyage from Buenos Ayres to Barcelona and back a profit of above 80,000 piastres. Hence the Greeks have an agent here, who at the same time fills the office of drogman or interpreter. He is a young man, who some years ago resided at Leipzig, and who speaks German tolerably well.

At Barcelona may be seen all the colours of the levant, and all the forms of vessels peculiar to the Mediterranean. I also saw maltese ships, which much frequent this port. Not long ago two of these vessels from the archipelago loaded with cotton had completed their quarantine at the time when the french consul and some captains of ships appointed a fête to celebrate the union of Malta to the republic. This took place at the entrance of the port, and no expense was spared; neither wine, nor flags, nor discharges of artillery; but the inhabitants of Barcelona were enraged both at the fête itself and the occasion of it.

Some days after arrived the news of the battle of Aboukir by an american ship. At this the whole town rejoiced, and vied with each other who

who ſhould celebrate it moſt gaily as a triumph. Immediately the ſailors of one of the malteſe ſhips began to riſe upon their captain, tore down the french colours, inſulted them, and threw them into the ſea, ſuſpending them from the bowſprit. The crew of the other ſhip followed their example, and all cried out "Malta for England." Of this the french commercial agent complained to the commiſſary of marine belonging to the port, but under various pretexts he was adviſed to be patient, and in the interim a thouſand outrages were committed againſt the two french captains.

Meanwhile the intelligence of the defeat of the French daily gained ſtrength, and ſoon after was confirmed. Upon this the ſailors of the two ſhips began to deſert, and the two captains found no other way of keeping the reſt, than going immediately out into the road. But as the ſailors had hoiſted engliſh colours, and would not lower them though commanded to do ſo, the governor-general gave orders to fire upon the ſhip. This vigorous meaſure and the want of proviſions brought them to their duty; a compromiſe was made, and it was agreed, that, till further intelligence ſhould arrive relative to the fate of Malta, the french and malteſe colours ſhould be both hoiſted together on board. The intelligence that came being favourable to the French, ſeveral of the ſailors were put in irons, and the commercial agent reported the

tranſaction

tranſaction to the french government. It was not known at my departure, how this affair would end.

You will eaſily imagine, that on this occaſion the Catalonians did not conceal the hatred they bore the French; for their antipathy exceeds all that can be conceived. Their manners and mode of life ſeem alſo rather to harmonize with thoſe of Italy than of France. Every thing ſhows the influence of the climate remarked among oriental nations. The women have a clearer complexion than at Valencia, their hair is lighter, and their veils are more of the italian form. Their kitchens, their furniture, the arrangement and decorations of their apartments, their food, and their profuſion of ſedias (chairs), add much to theſe ſimilarities.

At Barcelona are a vaſt number of literary and induſtrious eſtabliſhments, the principal of which are La real academia de buenas letras, inſtituted at the commencement of the preſent (eighteenth) century, and which in 1762 obtained a royal charter: Real academia de ciencias naturales y artes, inſtituted in 1766; here are profeſſors of algebra, geometry, and ſtatics; hydroſtatics and meteorology; electricity, optics, pneumatics, chemiſtry, and natural hiſtory; botany and agriculture: Real academia de juriſprudencia teorico-pratica: Eſcuela gratuita de nautica (free ſchool for navigation): Eſcuela gratuita de los nobles artes. Add to theſe three libraries belonging to monaſteries and that of

the biſhop, which are open three hours every day. Barcelona alſo publiſhes a gazette, though far inferior to that of Madrid both in paper and printing, and a diario or advertiſer, and it is the only town except Madrid where an almanack or guide for foreigners (guida de foraſteros) is printed.

As to the means of ſupporting life, nothing is wanting; the proviſions ſold at Barcelona are of the beſt quality, and thoſe which are imported, as bacallao, ſalt meat ſmoked, cheeſe and butter, are here in great abundance. Every where are ſeen magazines of wine, eating-houſes, and itinerant bakers of ſpice-bread with their ovens, who alſo dreſs ſauſages and periwinkles.

Theſe laſt are a very common ſpecies of food at Barcelona. They are dreſſed in ſtew-pans hermetically cloſed, or they are ſtrewed on the ground and ſtraw laid over them, which is ſet on fire. While dreſſing they make a noiſe like boiling water, and when dreſſed, that is when they can be taken out of their ſhells, they are eaten with oil and pepper; but this mode of dreſſing is horribly cruel.

Wine, in conſequence of the high duties it pays, is much dearer than at Madrid. A double quart coſts near ſixpence. It is alſo extremely harſh, depoſits a ſediment, and chalk is often put into it; a proceſs which the Catalonians have learnt from the Italians. Moſt of the wines ſold in the north

of

of Europe as french wines come from Catalonia, and are very prejudicial to the health.

There are at Barcelona a number of coffee-houſes, but moſt of them are kept by Italians and eſpecially by Genoeſe. The principal of theſe is near the palacio, which is the reſidence of the governor-general. At this coffee-houſe or in front of it all the captains and brokers of ſhips meet every day from ten till one.

Conſidering the union of ſo many political, commercial, and ſocial advantages, Barcelona would ſeem the reſidence to be recommended to foreigners in preference to all other towns in Spain without exception, if good Spaniſh were ſpoken there. It is true it is ſpoken in the chancery and among the higher orders; but the language ſpoken by the generality is a jargon a good deal reſembling that of Provence, and in which the pronunciation and terminations of ſpaniſh and french words are often confuſed and mutilated in a ſtrange manner. A vaſt number of ſhort plays or farces called ſaynetes are written in this dialect, which adds much to their comic effect.

LETTER XLIV.

Departure from Barcelona.—Formalities to be observed on Embarking for Genoa.—The Veſſel rigorouſly ſearched.—Milaneſe Eccleſiaſtics.—Cabo de Creus.—Alarm of a Pirate.—Gulf of Lyons.—Port Gros.

From the Iſles d'Hieres, Port Gros, Oct. 1798.

THE french conſul having refuſed me permiſſion to paſs through France on account of my auſtrian papers, I have no other reſource than to embark for Genoa. Indeed as the ſeaſon is far advanced, the equinoctial gales, not to mention the african corſairs, might make me averſe to this voyage; but neceſſity renders it indiſpenſable.

Before embarking for Genoa it is neceſſary to get one's paſſport and certificate of health (or bolete de ſanidad) ſigned, the former at the governor-general's, the latter by the council of health at the town-houſe; but previous to this the paſſport muſt be inſpected, and an order obtained for the delivery of a bill of health. At firſt this appears to be a mere formality; but no captain of a ſhip can excuſe any paſſenger from having it, becauſe this certificate being the only paſſport required at Genoa, the ſhip would be inevitably obliged to perform

form quarantine, were there a ſingle paſſenger on board without it.

With theſe papers then I went on board on the twelfth inſtant at night, and found a great number of paſſengers conſiſting of merchants, women, and ſoldiers that had obtained their diſcharge, who with the ſhip's crew amounted in the whole to fifty perſons. But inſtead of going out to ſea the next morning we were obliged to wait for the cuſtom-houſe officers, who, on account of the frequent exportation of ſpecie, are very rigorous in their ſearches.

They came on board, had the bales and portmanteaus opened, rummaged the ballaſt with long iron bars, had the ſails opened out, inſpected the guns, emptied the baſkets of proviſions, cut ſeveral loaves in two, in ſhort they uſed all poſſible means that can be employed by men who receive one half of the contraband property they find. This delay ſerved the captain as a pretext for remaining all day in port and waiting for another genoeſe ſhip, which was not inſpected till the afternoon. This veſſel being of the ſame ſize with ours, and each having a numerous crew and ſeveral four pounders, we hoped at leaſt to keep pirates in awe.

The next day we fortunately got out to ſea with a very fair wind: a ſtrong north-weſt breeze ſwelled our ſails, and we ran rapidly along the

fine ſhores of Spain, which being every where covered with plantations of trees and villages, afforded us a moſt ſmiling and chearful proſpect.

Among the paſſengers were two young men who called themſelves merchants, and had rather a jewiſh phyſiognomy: but I ſoon learnt from the captain that they were milaneſe eccleſiaſtics, and had the year before been paſſengers on board the ſame veſſel.

They had at firſt been kindly received as fugitives; but, a month after, had been arreſted by the inquiſition, and after a year's impriſonment they had been ſent on board and given in charge to the captain to be delivered up to the ſpaniſh miniſter at Genoa. According to what could be conjectured, they were accuſed of adultery and of having ſaid three maſſes a day. They complained of the tyranny and injuſtice of the Spaniſh in the ſtrongeſt terms. They dined however with the captain and had wine at diſcretion.

With a perfectly fair wind we approached Cabo de Creus, when on a ſudden we ſaw a ſhip bearing ſpaniſh colours, but which every one determined to be a pirate. All was now in motion; we tacked about, cleared the deck, and the crew were ordered to the guns. Every one was obliged to lend a hand, and arms and brandy were diſtributed to all. Meanwhile the corſair after ſome manœuvres at length ſtationed herſelf under the

cape

cape to wait for us. Immediately the two captains determined to drop to leeward, to hoiſt their colours, firing at the ſame time two guns, and to go with eaſy ſail to meet the enemy.

We were already within gunſhot, and were all waiting the captain's orders, when the enemy ſtruck their colours and called to us with a trumpet "Por dios! por dios! ſomos Eſpañoles" (For God's ſake! for God's ſake! we are Spaniards). Upon this we ordered her to come out of her retreat, and perceived her to be a ſmall ſpaniſh brig with two ſmall guns and ten ſeamen. Burſts of laughter and cries of joy now concluded our engagement to the ſatisfaction of both parties; but the captain, like a true Genoeſe, boaſted of his courage all day, and *the great exploits he would have achieved!*

This comic incident was ſucceeded by a more ſerious event, when we got into the gulf of Lyons, which in winter is extremely dangerous. The wind had been very favourable till about eleven o'clock, when it ſuddenly ſhifted to the ſouth-eaſt. The waves roſe to a prodigious height, made a noiſe like thunder, and the rolling of the ſhip exceeded any thing I had ever experienced. At midnight all hands were obliged to pump, we were drenched with water, and imagining we had ſprung a leak there was a general cry of deſpair. At three o'clock the captain cried out that the wind blew

ſtrong from the ſouthward, and that we ſhould be caſt on the lee ſhore. Every one looked forward to certain death, and all hands went to prayers. I felt reſigned, yet not without ſome hope, kept up my ſpirits with good wine, which is certainly the beſt expedient on ſuch an occaſion.

Thus we ſcudded along in a dreadful ſtate of uncertainty till near ſix o'clock, when the wind at length ſomewhat abated, day began to dawn, we found ourſelves in the latitude of Marſeilles, and the wind having veered a little to the weſtward, we hoped ſoon to get into ſmoother water. The ſtorm and the waves conſtantly diminiſhed as we ſtood off and on, and when toward eleven we approached the iſles d'Hieres, ſome beneficent genius ſeemed to have ſpread a calm over the whole face of nature, and we already felt the influence of this delicious climate. At length the wind came round due weſt, and every one already rejoiced at the hope of arriving ſpeedily on the coaſt of Genoa, when we diſcovered two engliſh frigates that gave us chace. It was then decided to enter Port-Gros, where after making ourſelves known we caſt anchor at the head of a ſmall bay.

Here we have remained theſe three days waiting for a favourable wind. I have however come on ſhore. This little rocky iſland is full of ſhrubs inhabited by innumerable birds, and we find a great quantity of arbutus and acacias. To the ſouthward

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is a guard-houſe with barracks adjoining, and a battery. The garriſon conſiſts of four gunners and a lieutenant, who with two women and three children are the only inhabitants of the iſland. Our captain gave this officer two ſmall barrels of wine, in exchange for which he obtained permiſſion to cut wood enough to fill his boat, hoping to ſell this cargo with great profit at Genoa.

LETTER XLV.

Coaſts.—Light-Houſe.—View of Genoa.—A Phyſician.—Firſt Impreſſions.—Concluſion.

Genoa, Oct. 1798.

At three in the morning we ſet ſail by moonlight, and a ſtrong north wind drove us along the coaſt of Provence, ſo that we ſoon left Nice and Antibes behind us with their olive-covered hills. The majeſtic maritime Alps already began to riſe as it were from the ſurface of the ocean, till at length the coaſt of Genoa ſtruck our eyes in all its magnificence. Theſe high mountains covered with wood, that multitude of villages and ſmall well-built towns, that variety of cultivation, the luxuriancy of the vegetable world, all concurred to render this one of the fineſt views in the Mediterranean.

It was about eleven o'clock when we perceived the genoa light-houſe. The ſky being overcaſt, it flamed like a ball of fire elongated into the form of a column. Toward three we arrived at the entrance of the harbour. Orders were given us with a ſpeaking trumpet from the top of the light-houſe, and we were obliged to caſt anchor till day-break.

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The light-houſe fires now began to fade, and we diſtinguiſhed the port and the maſts of ſhips; the alpine maſſes of mountains came forth from their obſcurity, and the duſky hue of the waters cleared up from one moment to another. Every object now reſumed its proper form, and the magnificent amphitheatre of mountains riſing above the waves diſplayed itſelf to our view. A vaſt variety of noiſes already interrupted the calmneſs of the port, the purple tints of morning ſhone upon our white flag, at length the ſun roſe, and we ſaw Genoa diſtinctly before us.

After a ſpaniſh frigate ſtationed here had aſked us ſome queſtions relative to news at ſea, we were towed into the port, and at length we anchored in the midſt of four tiers of ſhips almoſt at the extremity of the quay. A ſloop then appeared at a diſtance, on board of which was a phyſician who demanded our certificates of health. After they had been well perfumed, he ordered all the crew to appear on the quarter-deck and counted every one. He fixed his eyes upon us gravely for a few minutes, and at length permitted us to go on ſhore, where having proceeded a few paces I paſſed a gate of no very grand appearance, and entered the magnificent city of Genoa.

A motley mixture of men and women, to which my eyes were not of late accuſtomed, ſtruck my ſight; a multitude of monks and prieſts with large cockades

cockades on their hats and clothes, trees of liberty, national decrees poſted up, french ſoldiers at every ſtep, innumerable ſhops with heaps of gruyere cheeſe, milliners' ſhops in abundance, every thing ſeemed to tranſport me to a new world.

Genoa ſeems to have become what could never have been expected, a department of France. Where then is the luſtre of the ancient italian republics? It has diſappeared, it has made way for modern conceits! Let thoſe who believe in the ſtability of human eſtabliſhments learn to acknowledge their fragility, let them read hiſtory and abandon their viſionary abſurdities.

APPENDIX.

ON THE MODE OF TRAVELLING IN SPAIN.

THOUGH during the whole of the 17th century Switzerland, Italy, France, England, and Holland had been conſtantly travelled over by foreigners, yet it is not thirty years ſince a journey in Spain was conſidered as an expedition to the end of the world. For how could any one wiſh to viſit a country, which, in the diſcredit it had acquired by the terror of the inquiſition and the barbariſms of its manners, offered the foreigner no compenſation for the dangers and inconveniences of all ſorts he muſt there experience? As none therefore but a few political, military, or commercial adventurers, had as yet encountered theſe obſtacles, their accounts induced men fifty years ago to think Spain a country of ſavages, whoſe inhabitants were nearly on a par with the Hottentots.

But during the laſt five-and-twenty years this opinion has in ſome meaſure changed. The advances made by the Spaniſh under Ferdinand VI.

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and ſtill more under Charles III. ſoon attracted the notice of engliſh and french obſervers, who riſing above prejudice, began to viſit a country which promiſed ſome intereſting diſcoveries to the lovers of hiſtory and philoſophy, to the moraliſt, and to the ſtateſman. It was the engliſh traveller Twiſs who in 1770 firſt awakened public attention to theſe improvements, and Bourgoanne and Townſend in ſpite of the unjuſt ſarcaſms of Swinburne confirmed the opinion of their predeceſſors.

The writer of the foregoing letters has had occaſion to traverſe Spain in all directions, and has here collected all the information he was maſter of relative to travelling poſt, hired carriages, public roads, inns, &c. which he hopes may form a tolerably complete treatiſe on the mode of travelling in Spain; and as foreigners who would viſit that country with a view to mineralogy, botany, or commerce, or even from mere curioſity, will in all probability increaſe, he thinks he is doing ſome ſervice in publiſhing his obſervations; and the more as his own experience has made him too ſenſible of the want of ſimilar information.

Hitherto there have been no regular poſts or ſtage coaches in Spain. It is true, count Florida Blanca, while miniſter, once eſtabliſhed at the king's expenſe a diligence between Madrid and Bayonne at the moderate price of twelve piaſtres (peſos

(peſos fuertes or dollars of twenty reals de vellon) excluſive of meals; but the intrigues of the coachmen or owners of hired carriages and innkeepers ruined this eſtabliſhment, the bad adminiſtration of it cauſed great diſguſt in the outſet, and the great loſs ſuffered by the treaſury the firſt year prevented ſimilar diligences from being ſet up to Cadiz, Badajoz, and Barcelona. That of Bayonne however continued till the war with France broke out, when the undertaking ceaſed of itſelf for want of paſſengers, and it is probable will not be reſumed. The poſt extraordinary conſiſts either of mere poſt ſaddle-horſes (monturos) or poſt-carriages and horſes. Every traveller who has health and ſtrength to endure the fatigue may travel on poſt-horſes; but then he muſt ſet out from a town where there is an office for that purpoſe, at which he may apply for a paſſport or licence to travel poſt: otherwiſe it would be impoſſible for him to obtain horſes in the midſt of his journey, as for inſtance between Madrid and Badajoz, whatever neceſſity or inclination might ariſe for diſpatch, or for leaving his own horſes or carriage on the road and riding poſt. The motive of this regulation ſeems to be a prudent precaution of the government to prevent ſuſpicious perſons from entering and advancing into the heart of the kingdom, or perhaps through ſome relation to the general organization of poſting, becauſe the roads in great meaſure traverſe

mountains, and the poſt-maſters are generally only venteros or inn-keepers, who happen to be diſſeminated over the ſurface of the country. But when the abovementioned paſſport is obtained, it contains an order that the traveller be expedited in half a quarter of an hour, unleſs a total want of horſes prevent.

The poſts or ſtages are two ſpaniſh leagues, and muſt be performed in three hours. The price according to the tarif is for two horſes including the traveller and the poſtillion four peſettas per poſt or about three ſhillings, and the drink money to the poſtilion is fixed at two reals; but it is always neceſſary to give them double and conſent to pay for their dinner beſides, both in order to procure the beſt horſes and to avoid other bad conſequences of diſpleaſing them and acquiring their ill-will. To theſe extras muſt be added the expenſe of ſome refreſhments for the traveller himſelf, which will amount to ten reals per poſt of two leagues, but then he will travel exceedingly well, and may reckon upon having ſtrong and active horſes, that will carry a portmanteau of fifty or ſixty pounds weight and will beſides be always quickly diſpatched. If the traveller has alſo a good engliſh poſt-ſaddle, he will go forty or fifty german miles in two days, which notwithſtanding the rapidity of the journey will cauſe little or no fatigue. Should the traveller however be unwell, and obliged to reſt

reſt for a few hours or even a whole night, he may do it; but thoſe who arrive in the mean time will then have the preference, and he muſt be contented to run the riſk of finding no horſes when he wiſhes to continue his journey.

As to the *poſt extraordinary in carriages*, the poſt-maſters are obliged to ſupply two perſons having their own carriage and baggage not exceeding two hundred pounds weight with two horſes, and the price is the ſame as for ſaddle-horſes. For the poſt-chaiſe itſelf, if that be alſo taken of the poſt-maſter, they pay four reals each poſt, and the poſtillion's fee is taxed at two reals. We muſt reckon therefore upon paying twelve or thirteen reals per league; but then we travel very faſt, and go for inſtance from Madrid to Cadiz, which is one hundred (ſaxon) miles, in four days and four nights.

Thoſe who do not chooſe to travel poſt go in hired carriages, and this is the mode generally adopted. In all towns of any conſideration are caleſeros, almoſt all from Valencia, Murcia, or Catalonia, who convey travellers into all parts, even to Perpignan, Bordeaux, and Liſbon. They have heavy coaches for ſix paſſengers drawn by ſix mules, or chaiſes (caleſas) for two with one or two mules. They go from ſix to eight ſpaniſh leagues a-day or at moſt ſix german miles, and their price is in proportion to their number of mules.

They are generally paid two piaſtres a day each, but the following obſervations muſt be attended to.

A carriage may be hired either direct out or on the return. In the firſt caſe you muſt pay the journey out and home, which if the diſtance be great amounts to a conſiderable ſum: but you are rarely obliged to hire them out and home, becauſe moſt of the proprietors of carriages go to the great towns on ſpeculation. In the great inns of Madrid, Cadiz, Seville, Badajoz, &c. are always found carriage-brokers (corredores de carrúages y coches) with a liſt of all theſe carriages, for which they endeavour to find paſſengers. Thus it becomes eaſy to find return carriages, and then the mere journey itſelf is paid for; but you muſt treat with them very coolly, and pay no attention whatever to the advice of the inn-keeper, nor to the language of the broker, and inſiſt abſolutely on this condition. As ſoon as they perceive you will not give more, the driver will come himſelf and endeavour to make a bargain with you. If it ſhould happen, as it frequently does, that ſeveral of them are going to the ſame place, and eſpecially to the ſea ports, which they prefer to any other journey, you may have your choice, and may even ſometimes make them lower their price ſeveral piaſtres.

The *firſt rule* therefore to be obſerved is to agree not to pay the return. The *ſecond rule* is to avoid being cheated in the number of days journey.

Bayonne

Bayonne for inſtance is ſixty ſpaniſh leagues from Madrid, and the journey may eaſily be performed in eight days. The price therefore for ſix mules at two piaſtres each per day amounts for eight days to ninety-ſix piaſtres; but an artful driver may employ ten days on the road, either to ſave his mules or to charge two days more. To avoid this it is neceſſary to procure exact information, and ſtipulate with the muleteer to perform the journey in a certain fixed ſpace of time, under pain of deducting one third of the fare. The *third rule* is never to agree to give a farthing extra, neither for the driver, nor the mules, cuſtom-houſe dues, repairs, &c. If the traveller agrees to pay for the driver's dinner, or for other mules, the number being ſtill fixed at two, it will amount to an enormous ſum. It is better therefore to promiſe them in general a reaſonable drink-money, about four piaſtres. Neither muſt you agree to pay for their tobacco, which they frequently aſk. An unexperienced traveller would conſider this as a trifle; but he would ſoon perceive with what effrontery his indulgence would be abuſed, and with what liberality they would give ſome to all their acquaintance at every inn at his expenſe, which conſidering the enormous price of tobacco in Spain (three piaſtres a pound) becomes a conſiderable object. The *fourth rule* is that as by paying for the ſix mules you obtain an excluſive right over

the carriage, the driver has none to take any other paſſenger without your expreſs permiſſion even upon his own ſeat: whereas the traveller may let out a ſeat if he chooſes or admit a paſſenger gratis. *Fifth rule*, If you ſhould happen to wiſh to ſtop a day upon the road, the driver is obliged to agree to it provided you pay him his day's journey, and the ſame if you wiſh to go round to ſome other place, and in this caſe three or four ſpaniſh leagues would be conſidered as half a day's journey. But as it is ſometimes the intereſt of the muleteer to reſt his mules, he may on theſe occaſions be induced to accept two thirds of what he might charge. *Sixth rule*, The driver is reſponſible for every trunk and bundle you confide to his care, except in caſe of robbery by force. *Seventh rule*, In making your bargain you muſt not forget to expreſs in what money the payment is to be made: for as there is in ſome places a profit on ſilver, as at Barcelona and Bilboa, they are accuſtomed to make their demand in going from thoſe places in doubloons, on returning thither in piaſtres. You ſhould take care however to make your bargain to pay in the money you may have, without obliging yourſelf to change on purpoſe to make the exact ſum. [*Eighth rule*, Never ſhow much money in travelling.]

It may eaſily be conceived that a ſingle traveller will rarely be induced to hire a carriage with ſix mules,

mules, which is only uſed for families or parties; when alone it is better to hire a ſingle place. If the muleteer does not find an opportunity to let his whole carriage to one party, he endeavours to find ſeveral travellers, and then makes his firſt bargain at the rate of three or four piaſtres, and the reſt for ſomething leſs. Theſe are often advertiſed, and if three places are taken the fourth may frequently be had for a piaſtre or one and a half per day. The two firſt places give a right to take a portmanteau; but the muleteers make no difficulty to take portmanteaus, packets, &c.

If there are no ſingle places to be taken, the traveller may hire a caleſa or a kind of one-horſe chaiſe to which the above obſervation relative to the return will alſo apply. The charge is then two piaſtres per day for one mule, and if your baggage is trifling, that is if it does not exceed fifty pounds, you may diminiſh your expenſe by taking another traveller. To determine the lawful weight it ſuffices to know that they reckon from ſeven hundred and fifty to eight hundred pounds for a draught mule. The caleſeros being generally proprietors of their vehicles, and dreading a long ſtay in the great towns, you may frequently make them abate one third of the price, but you muſt never forget the above-mentioned precaution of fixing the number of days. It may alſo be obſerved, that, however antique the form of theſe vehicles may be, they

are tolerably commodious, and get to the end of the journey quicker than larger carriages.

The caleſeros and cocheros are to be treated in a peculiar manner; without ſeverity or rudeneſs, but at the ſame time without ſubmiſſion or deference. A dry ſerious comportment, a tranquillity and equality of manner, a certain degree of dignity, and unſhaken firmneſs, are indiſpenſably neceſſary in dealing with theſe kind of people. It is not however requiſite to have any written agreement; for notwithſtanding the roughneſs of their character, they are very faithful to their engagements. But if you wiſh it, you may make them juſt ſign the ſum agreed on, and have two counterparts ſigned by both parties.

If you do not chooſe either to travel poſt or in a hired carriage, you may ride on horſeback (a caballo) as the Spaniſh call it even when they ride on a mule. In this caſe you may hire a mule and muleteer (mozo de eſpuelas or groom of the ſpur), and you may then perform your day's journey of ſix or ſeven ſpaniſh leagues pretty quick, theſe muleteers, who alſo perform the office of a ſervant, being generally very good runners. The price for a mule is a piaſtre a day; ſometimes however it is a piaſtre and a half. In that caſe the muleteer beſides his keep has another half piaſtre for his trouble. As to meals you have only

only to agree for two common diſhes and a quartillo or pint of wine for each meal, and the reſt at the will of the traveller. This arrangement is particularly to be recommended to thoſe who do not make an object of avoiding expenſe, and who love to travel without trouble or having any thing to think of. The muleteer generally proves a faithful and very agreeable companion, who knows all the roads and the country perfectly well from having frequently travelled it. He takes care of the dinner for his maſter, and by his influence with the people of the houſe and knowledge of things in general reduces the bills within juſt and reaſonable bounds. With theſe muleteers you may travel from Victoria to Cadiz, and have nothing to pay for the return.

Thoſe who think all theſe methods too expenſive may engage with arrieros (muleteers). Theſe men have either mules or carriages. In the firſt caſe the price is a peſetta a league for a mule, or a piaſtre for five leagues, and the traveller has a right to carry his baggage to the amount of ten or eleven arrobas; (from two hundred and fifty to two hundred and ſeventy-five pounds weight). You are not obliged however to keep in the rank with the other mules, but may go on before if you chooſe ſo as to arrive early at the inns. Only you muſt then take care not to have a lame, blind, or reſtive mule, which fre-

quently happens. In this caſe you have neither to pay the return nor any other extras.

If you are not accuſtomed to ſpaniſh cookery, it is well to make a general agreement with the muleteer or arriero for your eating, wine, and bed, and rely upon him for the payment. In this caſe for a journey of from ſixty to ſeventy leagues you will pay from ſixteen to nineteen piaſtres, and will avoid being overcharged by the innkeepers, which is a conſiderable ſaving; for it is natural that a traveller muſt pay three times as much as an arriero who travels the road every month perhaps, and whom the landlords have conſequently an intereſt in pleaſing.

This laſt mode of travelling is that which I ſhould recommend to mineralogiſts and botaniſts. For thus they will not go far in a day, they travel ſlow, and the arrieros traverſe the higheſt mountains, where learned men will always find matter for diſcovery. You have alſo frequently the advantage of travelling in large parties, for it is not uncommon to ſee thirty mules together; ſo that you may ſtay ſome way behind without danger of loſing the road. Nor is this mode of travelling at all degrading, ſince it is adopted by eccleſiaſtics, merchants, and even by men of conſideration in all theſe claſſes. The ſame indeed cannot be ſaid of hiring half a mule and keeping in the rank, the beaſt being half loaded with goods. The price would then be

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as for a portmanteau in proportion to the weight, and as a piaſtre is paid for an arroba (twenty-five pounds) a man weighing about one hundred and twenty-five pounds (nine ſtone) would pay for the ſame road five piaſtres. But this mode of travelling is ſo diſgraceful, that travellers of this kind are ſaid to travel *por arrobas*.

Other arrieros carry goods in carts. Theſe are more frequently ſeen in the inland parts of Spain, eſpecially in the ſouthern provinces, than in the north; but, conſidering the improvement that has taken place in the roads over the mountains, it would be equally eaſy and advantageous to introduce this mode of travelling more generally. A mule cannot *carry* above three hundred pounds, and even then he is very heavily laden; whereas he can *draw* near eight hundred pounds. Since conveyance by ſea has been ſhackled in conſequence of the war, theſe carriers are ſeen from Liſbon as far as Barcelona and from Cadiz as far as Bayonne. They have covered two-wheeled carts drawn by four mules, and there are very commodious ſeats for paſſengers. The expenſe by theſe carriages is lighter, and you may thus go one hundred leagues for eleven or twelve piaſtres including a large trunk. As theſe carriages alſo go very ſhort ſtages, and travel very ſlow, ſo that the one hundred leagues from Cadiz to Madrid take fifteen days, they would alſo prove very convenient for mineralogiſts

logiſts and botaniſts. Add to this the advantage of being able to ſleep all night in the carriage, eſpecially in ſummer, which, if the traveller takes a mattreſs with him, is far preferable to the dirty infectious beds at the inns.

In general there are ordinarios or couriers, that go and return regularly between the great towns, whether with mules or in carriages; as for inſtance from Bilboa to Madrid a courier goes regularly every fortnight, and another every week; and from Madrid there are ordinarios every fortnight for Malaga, Barcelona, Badajoz, &c. and every one comes to his particular inn, which is fixed and eaſily known by enquiry or by referring to the *almanach mercantil*. There is ſometimes a want of opportunities to go directly from Madrid to Liſbon, but then you have only to go three leagues beyond Badajoz to Elvas, which is the firſt fort on paſſing the portugueſe frontiers, or three more leagues to Eſtremos, and you will find a multitude of return carriages. The *ordinario del rey* alſo goes every month with the diſpatches from the court of Madrid to that of Liſbon, and takes with him at a very reaſonable price ſuch travellers as are recommended to him.

As to the mode of travelling on borricos or aſſes, in going a journey of only a few leagues they may ſerve very well: if the proprietor is of the place you are going to, you pay at moſt only one or two reals

reals the league. But on a great road, if you would hire a borrico from village to village, not only you would find none on account of the diſtances, but if you did, you muſt pay for going and returning ſix reals per league. Beſides this mode of travelling is extremely inconvenient. A rough tottering beaſt, frequently reſtive, without bridle, guided by a pole, and kicking every time he is ſtruck, flying from one ſide to the other, and throwing his rider three or four times in a league, would ſoon diſguſt any one with this conveyance. The moſt ſkilful rider would loſe his character, and I doubt much whether he could govern ſuch a *caballo*, or would eſcape ſome unlucky accident.

To travel alone and on foot in Spain would be attended with numerous inconveniences, nor do I remember to have met a ſingle traveller on foot any where, except between two villages very near each other. Pilgrims, ſoldiers, monks, beggars, in a word all thoſe who in other countries travel on foot, almoſt always travel here in company with an arriero or ſome carriage, and a foot traveller arriving alone would run a riſk of not being received at the inns. Add to this the great diſtances between the towns and the inſecurity of the roads, which is by no means exaggerated, and it will be evident that pedeſtrian journeys are not ſo practicable in Spain as in France or Germany.

What

What I have here ſaid of the inſecurity of the roads muſt not be underſtood to extend to every part of Spain. It is true that robberies and aſſaſſinations are by no means uncommon; but the government are conſtantly endeavouring to render travelling more and more ſafe by daily ſending out ſoldiers on the great roads for that purpoſe. Beſides robbers do not in general attack foreigners; their cowardice directs them only to ſpaniſh traders, concerning whom they are poſſeſſed of ſome particular knowledge, or ſuch arrieros as they know are entruſted with ſpecie, &c. If therefore you take proper precautions at the inns, and do not ſhow your money, you have nothing to fear.

I ſhall now proceed to give you a few obſervations relative to the roads. The opening an eaſy communication between the different provinces and between their reſpective towns threatened to be attended with infinite difficulties. The enormous mountains that divide them, and the acceſſes to which have been obſtructed in ancient wars, ſeemed to confine the inhabitants within the limits of their own provinces; beſides which this the want of induſtry and the mutual hatred of the inhabitants added ſtill greater obſtacles, and afforded no encouragement to ſurmount them. Even within each province to eſtabliſh a communication between the different towns was very far from

eaſy,

eaſy. A great number of ſmall rivulets which fall from every mountain, and which in conſequence of the frequent rains in ſpring and autumn inundate the country in all parts, thick inacceſſible foreſts upon the mountains, the marſhy and inſecure ground of the plains, all contributed to deter foreign travellers and even Spaniards.

But how much ſurpriſed would not a traveller be, who, knowing the roads of Spain merely by the fabulous account of Madame Daunoy or of the elegant Barretti, ſhould behold them in their preſent ſtate! It was reſerved for ſome wiſe miniſter and eſpecially the conde de Aranda to bring about this happy change. By ſlow degrees royal or high roads (caminos reales) have been conſtructed throughout the greater part of Spain, which in many places ſurpaſs the roads of Germany and even the new roads in France. I ſhall here only mention thoſe of the Peña de Orduña, the Sierra de Guadarrama, and the Sierra Morena, concerning which I ſhall appeal to every traveller who has ſeen them. In like manner the roads from Bayonne to Madrid and all the ſea-ports are excellent, excepting that to Barcelona, which in various parts, in conſequence of the almoſt inſurmountable difficulties it had to contend with, is horribly bad. Several roads in Old Caſtile, as for inſtance after paſſing Burgos, and in Arragon, are ſtill ſuſceptible of much improvement; but in general, as I have already

already ſaid, the high roads in Spain are as good as poſſible. They are well cut, broad, ſuſtained in the hollows by walls, adorned with ſtrong and magnificent bridges, and furniſhed with direction poſts and every poſſible requiſite.

If the motives I have pointed out above formerly deterred people from travelling, how could it be expected to find good inns? Even after theſe roads were opened, travellers found it difficult to meet with ſleeping-places at convenient diſtances on account of the remoteneſs of the towns ariſing from the depopulation of the country. It therefore became neceſſary to build *ventas* or ſolitary inns (poſada ſignifying ſimilar houſes of entertainment in towns and villages), and there are now either ventas or poſadas every three or four leagues.

It is true that in Spain the inns are in general totally different from thoſe of France and other countries, and a traveller accuſtomed to theſe laſt cannot but think them intolerably bad: but we muſt view them according to the cuſtoms of Spain, where the number of travellers is ſo ſmall, that it does not anſwer for innkeepers to be prepared for them beforehand; ſo that travellers are accuſtomed to bring their proviſions with them or purchaſe them at the place where they ſtop, and the innkeeper keeps nothing but wine, oil, vinegar, bread, and other neceſſaries. Thus you may eaſily imagine what a traveller muſt expect. The people of

the houſe however will always procure for him meat, eggs, fiſh, &c. without much difficulty (except in ſome very rare caſes) eſpecially at the poſadas.

More inconvenience will be found at the ventas, where the ventero or landlord having generally very little capital is obliged to fetch his proviſions which are liable to ſpoil, ſuch as meat and fiſh, from a diſtance of three or four leagues. Hence, if other travellers have paſſed the preceding night there and the meſſenger is not returned, you may find nothing but bread, wine, or at moſt eggs; but from this no univerſal inference ſhould be drawn, for in general you will find both at the ventas and poſadas all the neceſſaries of life.

As to the apartments and beds, they are at beſt paſſable in the poſadas of the villages, but at the poſadas of great towns they are not to be complained of. They have beds broad enough for three perſons were it needful, mattreſſes, ſheets, and clean coverlets; in ſhort nothing is wanting in this reſpect. The ventas are generally ſpacious and ſubſtantial buildings with ſtables, ſheds for carriages, and large gardens, and they are almoſt always ſituated on eminences, ſo that the rooms are airy and command a very fine proſpect. In Valencia I found ventas, that might be compared with the fineſt country-houſes in Switzerland.

The

The prices at these inns are very various, and the traveller is always charged according to his carriage and equipage, his appearance, and the local dearness of provisions. Great complaints have been made of Spanish innkeepers in this respect, and yet much may be said in their favour. In the first place, the price of provisions, especially bread and meat, has considerably increased in Spain; and secondly, the innkeepers pay enormous rents to the monasteries, churches, individuals, or hospitals, to whom their houses belong, or of which these have the usufruct. How then could they subsist and maintain their families, if they did not reckon upon the profit derived from their guests? According to an average computation, travellers pay three or four reals for a bed, four reals for a plate of meat with vegetables, &c. two reals for a pint of wine, even where it is dearest, and often only one real, also one real for house-room or house-noise as it is called *(ruido de casa* or simply *de casa)* whether for an hour or for the night, and a few quartos to the girl that waits for pin-money *(por alfileres)*.

Whoever wishes to travel in Spain with advantage or pleasure, ought at least to understand Spanish well enough to learn to speak it in a short time. Nor can any one travel with satisfaction, who does not endeavour to accommodate himself

to

to ſpaniſh diſhes, and to eating cold meat, which indeed is moſt conducive to health, eſpecially in hot climates. In this caſe the traveller may make a conſiderable ſaving, if he buys his proviſions at the good inns, and only pays at the bad ones his real for *ruido de caſa*. It is alſo both convenient and agreeable to have what the French call a neceſſaire de voyage [or ſmall cheſt of utenſils about the ſize of a large portable deſk] to which ſhould be added a good *bota* or flexible leathern bottle that has been well ſeaſoned by uſe, becauſe in ſome places the wine is better or cheaper than in others.

As to religion I ſhould ſtrongly adviſe every proteſtant to conſider the mode of worſhip of the country as an affair of police [or a right of hoſpitality] which ought to be reſpected, and therefore to conform to whatever the eſtabliſhed ſyſtem may require. It is true that of late years the inquiſition has become little more than a mere tribunal of morals, ſo that no peaceful proteſtant is moleſted for his belief. The Spaniards ſeem even to have thrown off all religious hatred, and begin to be more tolerant. Nothing however is more eaſy, than by obſerving a few ceremonies, which are very ſoon learnt, and by ſparing the prejudices of the weak minded, to procure, if not great and important advantages, at leaſt pleaſing marks of eſteem and confidence, eſpecially from the fair ſex. You muſt therefore by no means appear to deſpiſe

or neglect the mass, the processions, or las animas. A prudent man will generally avoid opening his mouth on this subject; for politeness alone should prevent his casting ridicule, even where merited, on things for which the majority of the people feel a profound veneration.

As to the best season for travelling in Spain, I think the most convenient is from April to October. Mr. Townsend indeed prefers the winter for the southern provinces on account of the heats; but I am not of his opinion; for the heats are much greater in the heart of Spain and among the northern mountains than on the southern coasts, where the sea breezes always temper the heat of the sun, and where the nights are almost always cool. I have resided in Andalusia in the hottest months, viz. July and August, and have frequently continued in the streets till eleven o'clock in the morning without ever experiencing a coup de soleil or any other evil consequence. Besides in the southern provinces the frequent rains that prevail during winter render that season very inconvenient for travelling, add to which the shortness of the days, the gloominess of the weather, and the irksomeness of passing long evenings in the posadas and solitary ventas. When any one travels from the north of Spain to the south, he will gradually accustom himself to the climate, and if during the hot months you travel in the old

ſpaniſh manner in the mornings and evenings, you will ſuffer but little from the heat, and will enjoy all the pleaſures, that country affords during the three beſt ſeaſons of the year.

As to ſpecie it muſt be obſerved, that no money is current in Spain but that of the country. In Biſcay however you may get rid of your french money, though with ſome loſs. The beſt method therefore is to take ſpaniſh money at Bayonne, which may be done, if not with a profit, at leaſt without loſs. When in 1797 I paſſed through Bayonne in the ſpring, I exchanged my french crowns of ſix livres for ſpaniſh doubloons at one and a half per cent profit in conſequence of the ſcarcity of the one and the abundance of the other.

I ſhall conclude with a few obſervations on ſea-voyages to and from Spain. To go from the north of Europe to Spain the beſt method as appears to me is to embark in the Sound. For there more ſhips are to be found than elſewhere, and you may chooſe the neareſt port of Spain if you prefer it, as San Sebaſtian or Bilboa. The paſſage, board included, will coſt about fifty piaſtres. If you go from Hamburgh during the proper ſeaſon, you will find ſhips for Bilboa every month, and you will pay for your paſſage and board thirty or forty piaſtres; nor is there any want of ſhips for Spain at Amſterdam.

If you go from France you will from time to time find ſhips for Bilboa at Nantes and at Bordeaux, that will take you for ten or twelve piaſtres or even leſs, but excluſive of board. From Bayonne tranſport veſſels called chaſſe-marées ſail almoſt every week in ſummer for Bilboa, in which a paſſage coſts twelve livres or at moſt two piaſtres and a half. There is only one inconvenience; that theſe ſhips are ſometimes detained in port twenty or thirty days on account of the bar, a delay which is extremely diſagreeable. From England ſhips may always be found at London and Briſtol for Bilboa or any other port; and to return from Spain to England, ſhips may always be found at Bilboa. The paſſage including board coſts forty or fifty piaſtres. If you go from England to Cadiz or the contrary, you had better go on board the packet from Liſbon to Falmouth, the paſſage by which is eighteen guineas.

To go from Italy to Spain you may embark at Genoa for Barcelona, becauſe ſeveral veſſels go and return between theſe ports every month; and during peace there are packet boats under the king's orders every fortnight. You pay according to the part of the veſſel you chooſe four or even ſix piaſtres, and as to board, for the common fare of the ſailors four piaſtres more, or at the captain's table twenty piaſtres. The ſhorteſt paſſage is three days, the longeſt eighteen. You may alſo embark

at

at Marſeilles, where italian veſſels often come, or you may find veſſels belonging to Marſeilles itſelf, or Trieſte, Naples, &c. bound for Barcelona. In France and Italy you will derive a great profit from piaſtres, but in Spain their exportation is prohibited; thoſe therefore who cannot do otherwiſe muſt take a permit; but even then it is not allowed to take more than ſeventy; ſo that if you have a conſiderable ſum in that coin you will be much embarraſſed.

I hope theſe remarks may prove uſeful to thoſe who travel in Spain; for I ſhall then enjoy the ſatisfaction of having accompliſhed the object I propoſed.

[The wine being frequently acid, a ſmall bottle containing ſalt of tartar or ſome other alkaline ſalt will prove a uſeful travelling companion.]

THE END.

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